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MILITARY LAW.

BY

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ^{William} W. WINTHROP,

DEPUTY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL, U. S. ARMY,

AUTHOR OF THE ANNOTATED DIGEST OF OPINIONS OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATES GENERAL.

IN TWO VOLUMES—VOL. I.

W. H. MORRISON,

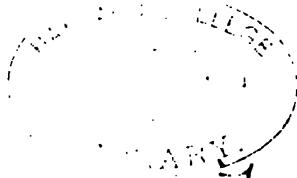
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TO

BVT. MAJOR GENERAL JOSEPH HOLT, U. S. A.,

SECRETARY OF WAR IN 1860-1861,

WHO, LATER, AS THE

FIRST JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL OF THE ARMY,

AT THE MOST CRITICAL PERIOD OF OUR HISTORY,

FOUNDED OUR MILITARY JURISPRUDENCE,

THIS WORK IS,

WITH RESPECT AND AFFECTION,

DEDICATED,

BY HIS FORMER ASSISTANT.

PREFACE.

In view of the absence and want of a comprehensive treatise on the science of Military Law, it has been for some years the purpose of the author—a member of the bar in the practice of his profession when, in April, 1861, he entered the military service—to attempt to supply such want with a work, which, by reason of its extended plan and full presentation of principles and precedents, should constitute, not merely a text book for the army, but a *law book* adapted to the use of lawyers and judges. The present treatise was substantially completed in 1880, when the author was called upon to publish his “Digest of Opinions of the Judge Advocates General,” and some of the references embraced in the original work were inserted in the notes of that publication. Since its date certain unusually important military trials and investigations have been had, sundry valuable opinions upon questions of military law have been pronounced by the courts and other legal authorities, and our written military law—especially the Army Regulations—has been materially modified. Meanwhile also, in England, the much-honored Mutiny Act and Articles of War have wholly passed away and been succeeded by the new “Army Act” and “Rules of Procedure,”—a reform of great interest to the military student,—and this legislation, &c., has been copiously illustrated by the excellent official “Manual of Military Law” and a series of minor commentaries.

In view of these changes, the present work has been revised, and in great part re-written, and the references have been brought down to the end of the year 1885. Apart from the views and conclusions of the author, the precedents, now first collected and considered, will, it is believed, be found to be valuable both as law and history. A complete history, for ex-

ample, of the late war could scarcely be written without taking into consideration the more important trials and acts of military government of that period instanced in the course of these volumes.

The author, however, will be fully recompensed for his labor if the same shall result in inspiring an interest in the study of Military Law as a department of legal science not heretofore duly recognized. The lawyer who, if he has not been led into the old error of confounding the military law proper with martial law, has perhaps viewed it as consisting merely of an unimportant and uninteresting scheme of discipline, will, it is hoped, discover in these pages that there is a military code of greater age and dignity and of a more elevated tone than any existing civil code, as also a military procedure, which, by its freedom from the technical forms and obstructive habits that embarrass and delay the operations of the civil courts, is enabled to result in a summary and efficient administration of justice well worthy of respect and imitation. The military student, on the other hand, in examining the cases cited, as adjudicated by the courts which expound the international law, the common law, the criminal law, and the maritime law, will, it is thought, more fully appreciate the connection between the military law and the general law of the land;—will perceive that the former, while distinct and individual, is not an isolated exception, but a branch of the great body of the public law, variously and harmoniously affiliated with the other branches of the system.

That Military Law, from its early origin and historical associations, its experience of many wars, its moderation in time of peace, its scrupulous regard of honor, its inflexible discipline, its simplicity, and its strength, is fairly entitled to consideration and study, is a belief of the author which he trusts his readers will share.

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EXPLANATION OF REFERENCES.

The well known military writers, or authors of works on military or naval law or history, are generally cited simply by name—as Bruce, Adye, Sullivan, Grose, Williamson, Tytler, McArthur, Samuel, Delafons, McNaghten, Simmons, Harcourt, Griffiths, Kennedy, Napier, Hughes, Hickman, D'Aguilar, Prendergast, Thring, Tulloch, Franklyn, Gorham, Jones, O'Dowd, Brackenbury, Pratt, Macomb, Maltby, O'Brien, De Hart, Coppée, Benét, Lee, Harwood, Ives.

Hough's principal work on Courts-Martial, published in 1825, is referred to as—Hough.

His "Practice of Courts-Martial and other Military Courts," (1834,) as—Hough, (Practice.)

His "Military Law Authorities," (1839,) as—Hough, (A.)

His "Precedents in Military Law," (1855,) as—Hough, (P.)

Clode's "Military Forces of the Crown," (2 vols.,) is referred to as—Clode, 1 (or 2) M. F.

His "Administration of Justice under Military or Martial Law," as—Clode, M. L.

James' "Collection of the Charges, Opinions and Sentences of General Courts-Martial," is referred to as—James.

"A Letter to the Queen on a late Court-Martial," by Samuel Warren, is referred to as—Warren.

The "Rules for the guidance of Courts-Martial in the Bombay Army," is referred to as—Bombay R.

The "Manual of Military Law" by Col. J. K. Pipon and J. F. Collier, Esq., is referred to as—Pipon & Col.

The official "Manual of Military Law," the work of some seven different writers, revised by the Judge Advocate General, and published by the British War Office, Oct. 1st, 1882, is referred to as—Manual.

The French "Manuel Pratique des Tribunaux Militaires," by P. Alla, is referred to as—Alla.

The edition referred to of the Journals of (the Continental) Congress, is that published by Way & Gideon, Washington, 1823.

The Military Dictionaries referred to are specifically indicated as those of Voyle, Duckett, Campbell, Duane, Scott, &c.

The numerous military Trials or Inquiries referred to are chiefly the printed proceedings contained in volumes to be found in the law library at the Capitol, Washington, and other law or general libraries. Others are to be found, and are cited as published, in the "American Archives" or "State Papers." Of others, which exist only in the original records on file in the Judge Advocate General's Department, the proceedings have generally been published in specified General Orders.

The Orders of the War Department or Headquarters of the Army, [including the earlier O., (A. & I. G. O.,) which were dated but not numbered,] are in general referred to simply as G. O. or G. C. M. O., of such a year, &c., *without adding* "*War Dept.*," or "*Hdqrs. of Army.*" They are *thus distinguished* from the G. O. and G. C. M. O. of the military Departments, &c., in citing which the name of the specific Dept., Division, Army, &c., is always given.

The previous work of the present author—the "Digest of Opinions of the Judge Advocates General"—is referred to simply as—DIGEST.

MILITARY LAW.

CHAPTER I.

THE SUBJECT DEFINED AND DIVIDED— CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS.

MILITARY LAW, in its ordinary and more restricted sense, is the specific law governing the Army¹ as a separate community.

In a wider sense, it includes also that law, which, operative only in time of war or like emergency, regulates the relations of enemies and authorizes *military government* and *martial law*.

The general subject of Military Law will therefore naturally be presented under two Parts, as follows :

Part I. Military Law Proper.

Part II. The Law of War.

But a treatise on Military Law can scarcely be complete, or satisfactory to the military profession, without some reference to the *quasi* civil functions which may be devolved upon the army and to the legal relations in which its members may be placed toward the civil community. A further Part has therefore been added to this work, entitled—

Part III. Civil functions and relations of the Military.

1. Military Law, or the "Law Military," in its most comprehensive sense, may be deemed to embrace the law governing the *Navy*. This law, however, it is not proposed to advert to except in so far as its provisions or principles may illustrate those of the law pertaining to the Army, or affect the status of the Marine Corps when serving with the Army. For the distinctive features of our naval code, reference may be had to Title XV of the Revised Statutes, the U. S. Navy Regulations, ed. of 1881, the Gen. Ct. Mar. Orders of the Navy Department, which have been issued regularly since February, 1879, and Commodore Harwood's treatise on Naval Courts Martial, published in 1867.

SOURCE OF AND AUTHORITY FOR MILITARY LAW IN GENERAL.

Historically, as will hereafter be indicated, our military law is very considerably older than our Constitution. With the Constitution, however, all our public law began either to exist or to operate anew, and this instrument therefore is in general referred to as the source of the military as well as the other law of the United States. Thus it is said by Chief Justice Chase, in *Ex-parte Miligan*:—"The Constitution itself provides for military government as well as for civil government. * * * There is no law for the government of the citizens, the armies, or the navy of the United States, within American jurisdiction, which is not contained in or derived from the Constitution."

Specific Constitutional Provisions. The provisions of the Constitution which may be regarded as the source or sanction of, or authority for, our existing military law and jurisdiction—the discipline of armies as well as the war power—are the following, viz.:

1st. Those by which CONGRESS, as the *legislative* branch of the government is empowered—"To define and punish * * * offences against the law of nations;" "To declare war, grant letters of marque and reprisal, and make rules concerning captures on land and water;" "To raise and support armies;" "To provide and maintain a navy;" "To make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces;" "To provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections and repel invasions;" "To provide for organizing, arming and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the United States;" and further, generally, "To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers," (*i. e.* those here recited together with various others set forth in the same section,) "and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States or in any department or officer thereof."¹

2d. Those by which the PRESIDENT, as the *executive* power,

1. 4 Wallace, 137.

2. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8.

is constituted "Commander-in-Chief of the army and navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several States when called into the actual service of the United States;" by which he is empowered to appoint, (generally in conjunction with the Senate,) and is required to commission, the officers of the army, &c.; and by which it is made his duty to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed."

3d. The provision of the Vth Amendment, that—"No person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia when in actual service in time of war or public danger."

These provisions² will be variously applied and illustrated in the several Parts of the work.

1. Const., Art. II, Secs. 1, 2 and 3.

2. With those cited may also be noticed Art. III of the Amendments, prescribing that:—"No soldier shall in time of peace be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war but in a manner to be prescribed by law." The billeting of soldiers, however, is practically unknown in our army.

CHAPTER II.

PART I—MILITARY LAW PROPER.

THE WRITTEN LAW—ARTICLES OF WAR AND OTHER DISCIPLINARY STATUTES.

Military law proper—Of what it consists. Military law proper is that branch of the public law which is enacted or ordained for the government exclusively of the military state, and is operative equally in peace and in war. We will term it, in general, simply *military law*, in contradistinction to the law administered by the civil tribunals. Like that law, it consists of a Written and Unwritten law.

The Written military law. This, which comprises much the greater part of the Law to be considered, is made up of:—

I. The statutory Code of Articles of War; II. Other statutory enactments relating to the discipline of the Army; III. The Army Regulations; IV. General and Special Orders.

I. THE ARTICLES OF WAR.

The Articles, or Rules and Articles, of War, are statutory provisions for the enforcement of discipline and administration of criminal justice in the army, enacted by Congress in the exercise of the constitutional power "to make rules for the government and regulation of the land forces." In their origin, however, a majority of these Articles considerably *pre-date* the Constitution, being derived from those adopted by the Continental Congress between 1775 and 1786, which were themselves taken from pre-existing British articles having their inception in remote antiquity.

Early Codes. While no written military codes remain from the times of the Greeks or Romans, some of the principal military offences familiar to our present law, as desertion, mutiny,

cowardice, the doing of violence to a superior, and the sale or appropriation of arms, were recognized in their armies; and, of the punishments inflicted by them, while a portion, such as decimation,¹ denial of sepulture, (in connection with the death penalty,) maiming, exposure to the elements, taking of meals standing, &c., have long ceased to be known, others, such as dishonorable discharge, expulsion from the camp, labor on the fortifications, carrying of burdens, and servile or police duty, have come down to our day without substantial modification. Among the early Germans, in the absence of a written law, justice was in general administered summarily by the chief commanders, through the instrumentality of the priests; the principal punishments, besides death, being whipping, forfeiture of horses or cattle, and a civil and military disqualification or dishonoring imposed for such offences as volunteering for a campaign but failing to take the field, losing the shield in battle, and returning alive from a battle where the chief had fallen.

Of the written military laws of Europe the first authentic instance appears to have been those embraced in the Salic code, originally made by the chiefs of the Salians at the beginning of the fifth century, and revised and matured by the successive Frankish kings: other written laws—as, those of the Western Goths, the Lombards, the Burgundians and the Bavarians, extending in date to the ninth century, belong to this period. These codes were all civil as well as military, the civil and military jurisdictions being scarcely distinguished and the civil judges being also military commanders in war.²

The date of the first French *ordonnance* of military law is given as 1378; the first German *Kriegsartikel* are attributed to 1487. The laws however of the Merovingian and Carolingian Franks appear to have reached their full development in 1532 in the celebrated penal code of the Emperor Charles V, which has been viewed as the model of the existing military codes of con-

1. See Chapter XX, p. 618.

2. Among the principal authorities consulted upon the subject of these early military laws are Potters' *Archæologia Græca*; Smith's *Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities*; Adam's *Roman Antiquities*; Vegetius, *De Re Militari*; Ludovici, *Kriegsprozess*; Koppmann, *Militärstrafgesetzbuch*; Von Molitor, *Kriegsgerichte und Militärstrafen*; Le Faure, *Lois Militaires de la France*; Foucher, *Commentaire sur le Code de la Justice Militaire*.

tinental Europe. The Articles of War of the Free Netherlands of 1590, republished in 1705; the elaborate Articles of Gustavus Adolphus framed in 1621; the Regulations of Louis XIV, of 1651 and 1665; the Articles and Regulations of Czar Peter the Great, of 1715; and the Theresian penal code of the Empress Maria Theresa, of 1768, with the later "Norma"—are among the most noted of the systems of European military law which have succeeded the "Carolina."¹ Some of the details of these laws will be hereafter referred to.

The British Military Code. For nearly two centuries, and till a very recent date, this parent code was made up of—(1) the statute known as the Army Mutiny Act, and (2) the Articles of War.

The early Articles. The Articles are much older in history than the statute. The earliest articles appear to have been specific military orders or directions issued to the army, for its government, when about to proceed upon an expedition, or from time to time during war.² They were commonly ordained directly by the King, by virtue of his royal prerogative, and with the aid and counsel of his peers, especially of the High Constable and Earl Marshall,³ officials hereafter to be referred to as composing the court of chivalry, the original of the court-martial in England.⁴ Early ordinances of this character are referred to by the authorities as promulgated by Richard I,⁵ Richard II,⁶ Henry V,⁷ Henry VII, and Henry VIII:⁸ these were succeeded by more extended precepts which continued to be put forth by the Crown, or by its authority, till the period of the Rebellion; those of 1629

1. The more usual designation of the code of Charles V; the full description being "Constitutio Carolina Criminalis."

2. 2 Grose, 58; Pipon & Col., 14; Clode, M. L., 29, 72. As to the early history of *naval* military law prior to the Act of 13 Chas. II, "which brought the naval usages and ordinances into the form of a statute," see Forsyth, Cases & Opins. of Const. Law, 193-4.

3. 2 Grose, 58; Adye, 5; Tytler, 38; Samuel, 61; Griffiths, 18.

4. See Chapter V.

5. 2 Grose, 63; Samuel, 60, 89. And see Appendix.

6. These "Statutes, Ordinances, and Customs," of Richard II, (A. D. 1385,) as given by Grose, vol. 2, pp. 64-69, will be found in the Appendix.

7. These contain "regulations respecting duties, musters, watches, and guards," &c. 2 Grose, 70. And see Samuel, 90; Pratt, 3.

8. 2 Grose, 70; Samuel, 59-63; Pipon & Col., 14.

and 1639 being the most elaborate.¹ In some instances the generals commanding the armies were empowered by the King, by special commission, to make rules and articles of war.² Among the last of these was the ordinance issued in 1640 by the Earl of Northumberland as Lord General,³ which was followed by a similar one, (of ninety-six articles under twelve heads,) promulgated in 1642 by the Earl of Essex as commander of the opposing army of parliament and with the sanction of that body.⁴

Just before the dates last mentioned, viz. in 1639, there was published in London⁵ the Code of Articles, already referred to, of Gustavus Adolphus, promulgated by him to his army in July, 1621. In reading these, (one hundred and sixty-seven in number,) it is readily concluded that not a few of the articles of the English codes of a later date were shaped after this model or suggested by its provisions.⁶ In some instances, in our own present articles, there are retained quaint forms of expression identical with terms to be found in this early code as translated.

Subsequently to the Rebellion, articles were put forth, from time to time, by the Crown or under its authority, during the

1. Clode, M. L., 9-11. The articles of 1639, as contained in Clode, 1 M. F., 429-440, are ninety in number and arranged under six separate titles.

2. 2 Grose, 58-59; Samuel, 64; Clode, M. L., 6, 10; also Id., 2 M. F., 425, where is given in full the commission of Chas. I to the Earl of Arundel as commander-in-chief, under which were issued the articles of 1639.

3. 2 Grose, 70; Samuel, 65; Clode, M. L., 10.

4. 2 Grose, 71; Samuel, 65; Clode, M. L., 84. And see Clode, 1 M. F., 442, where, as also in Pipon & Col., 367, extracts are given from this code. Clode, (M. L., 10,) referring to these similar sets of articles, adds—"so that both armies, though opposed to each other, were governed by the same military code." On p. 40, (referring to the articles adopted from the British by our continental Congress,) he observes—"In 1775 the same thing happened in America."

As to the administration of military justice during the period of the Rebellion and the Protectorate, see, further, Pipon & Col., 15-18.

5. In Ward's *Animadversions of Warre*, Book Second, pp. 41-54. These articles were reprinted in the *Journal of the Military Service Institution*, p. 135. And see the reference to this code in Stevens' *Life of Gustavus Adolphus*, 129-130.

6. A large number of English had served, as officers and soldiers, in the armies of Gustavus Adolphus. Scott's *Brit. Army*, vol. 2, pp. 41-2, 566. As to the influence of his Articles, and of the military law of the Low Countries, in shaping the English code, see Simmons § 1 and notes.

reigns of Charles II and James II, viz. the articles of 1662-3, 1666, 1672, ("Prince Rupert's code,") 1685 and 1688;¹ the last being those in force at the period of the English Revolution and at the date of the first Mutiny Act—1 William and Mary, c. 5, of April 3, 1689. With this Act British Military law began to assume a statutory form.

The first Mutiny Act. The event which induced the adoption of this enactment,—the mutiny and substantial desertion of a detachment of troops, mainly Scotch, which adhered to the cause of the Stuarts and, refusing to obey the order of William III to proceed to Holland, marched northward,—is familiar to the student of military law.² The offences thus committed were, by the custom of war, punishable with death, but, by the laws of the realm, not always regarded in this particular by the sovereign, this punishment could not be imposed within the kingdom, by the executive power in time of peace.³ Parliament therefore availed itself of the occasion of asserting its exclusive authority to license such punishment by enacting on the date above mentioned a statute providing generally that any officer or soldier who should thereafter excite, cause, or join in a mutiny or sedition in the army, or should desert the service, should be punished with death or such other penalty as a court-martial might adjudge.⁴ The existing articles of war were not superseded, nor was the prerogative of the Sovereign to make articles, or to authorize the death penalty for offences committed *abroad*, im-

1. A copy of the Articles of 1688, for which I am indebted to Col. G. N. Lieber, Assistant Judge Advocate General, will be found in the Appendix. The originals are printed at the end of the "English Military Discipline" of James II, (published in 1686,) which, consisting mainly of instructions as to military exercises and duties in the field, concludes with a Title—"Of Councils of War, or Courts Martial," which I have also extracted.

2. See 1 McArthur, 22; Adye, 30; Tytler, 102; Samuel, 136; Clode, M. L., 19; Id., 1 M. F., 142, 497; Pratt, 5.

3. "Attempts were made from time to time, especially during the despotic reigns of the Tudors, to enforce military law under the Prerogative of the Crown in time of peace; but no countenance was afforded to such attempts by the law of England; and commissions for the execution of military law in time of peace issued by Chas. I in 1625 and the following years gave rise to the declaration in 1627, contained in the Petition of Right, (3 Chas. I, c. 1.) that such an exercise of the Prerogative was contrary to law." Manual, 7-8.

4. The Act is given in full in the Appendix.

paired by the Act: its effect was, as to this penalty, to preclude its infliction *at home* for any military offences except those which it designated.¹

Later, in 1718, the making of Articles by the Crown, to be operative within the Kingdom as well as beyond seas, was expressly authorized by parliament in the Mutiny Act; and in 1803 it was enacted that both the Act and the Articles should henceforth apply to the army equally at home and abroad. A general statutory force was thus given to the Articles, which no longer depended for their efficacy upon royal prerogative.²

The Mutiny Act, initiated as above indicated, was limited in its operation to a term of about seven months, but, soon after its expiration, was renewed for a year. With frequent additions and modifications it has, since, except for a few brief intervals,³ been, by annual enactment, continued in force until a very recent period. Meanwhile, though originally consisting of but ten sections, it had become so enlarged as to embrace, in 1878, upwards of one hundred. Meanwhile also the Articles of war, always published with the Act, and from time to time revised, had become, at the date mentioned, nearly two hundred in number. The Articles repeated, though in a different form, many of the provisions of the Act, while in others the two were quite distinct. The necessity of constantly comparing the two, and passing from the one to the other in order to ascertain and harmonize the law, was at least inconvenient, and that the body of law thus dissevered was not sooner consolidated and simplified must remain a matter of surprise to the American student.

The Reform of 1879-1881. Army Act and Rules of Procedure. At length, in 1879, after nearly two centuries of existence, the Mutiny Act, (and with it the code of Articles,) was allowed to expire without renewal, and there was substituted for it, on July 24th of that year, a quite new statute—also however intended to be annually renewed—entitled the “Army Dis-

1. Clode, M. L., 22; Pratt, 4. And see *Barwis v. Keppel*, 2 Wilson, 314.

2. Pratt, 4; Clode, M. L., 22, 25; Id., 1 M. F., 146, 503; Manual, 14, 15.

3. The only considerable interval, according to the authorities, was one of about two years and ten months, viz. from April 10, 1698, to Feb. 20, 1701. Adye, 21; Clode, 1 M. F., 389-391.

discipline and Regulation Act."¹ In a section of this statute the Sovereign was expressly authorized to make not only Articles of war but also "Rules of Procedure" for courts-martial, reviewing officers, &c. Rules, (but no Articles,) were made and published accordingly, but, in 1881, both Act, now designated as the "ARMY ACT," (or "Army Annual Act,") and Rules, underwent a full revision. The revised Act, passed August 27th, 1881, has been since annually continued in force, and, with the Revised Rules (promulgated Aug. 29, 1881,) and a few army regulations,* constitutes the existing code for the royal military forces.

The Army Act is not only a substitute for the old Mutiny Act but it substantially incorporates also the previous Articles of war,³ and though the King is still empowered to make Articles yet the fact of such incorporation, in connection with the creation of the Rules of Procedure, will, as observed by a recent writer,⁴ "probably render the exercise of this power unnecessary or very rare." There are thus now *no* British Articles of war nor are there likely to be any for an indefinite period.

The Act and Rules—which will be found in the Appendix—constitute a code considerably more elaborate than that which they superseded.⁵ Whether the form of codification adopted will prove to have been judicious is as yet a question. The

1. 42 & 43 Victoria, c. 33. This Act superseded also the Marine Mutiny Act. A similar change—it may be noted—had previously taken place in the *naval* code; the naval Articles of war and general laws for the government of the navy having been "reconstructed and placed on a new footing by the Legislature in the Naval Discipline Act of 1866." Thring, preface and p. 393.

2. See "The Queen's Regulations and Orders for the Army, 1881, Sec. VI.

3. The Act is 'a consolidation of the Army Mutiny Act and Marine Mutiny Act, the Articles of War, and the Army Enlistment Act of 1870 Jones, 18. And see Graham, p. 5.

4. Jones, p. 18.

5. "The effect of the recent legislation has been rather to complicate than to simplify the military code. Some anomalies have been swept away, but with them has also disappeared much of the simplicity which characterized the administration of military law under the Mutiny Act and Articles of War. Not only has the actual punitive code been largely increased in size, but the manner of carrying it out, on the procedure of courts-martial, has become so involved that the regulations concerning it require close attention." Col. Brackenbury, in Preface to Pratt's Military Law.

are certainly, however, embraced in the new law many excellent provisions, some of which will be hereafter referred to. References will also be made to the admirable "*Manual of Military Law*," published by the War Office, Oct. 1st, 1882, by which such provisions are illustrated.

The Military Code of the United States. The two main points of difference between the composition of the American military code and that of Great Britain are—1, that we have in our law no "Mutiny," or "Army Annual" Act, or other corresponding legislation: 2, that our Articles of war, though in large part derived from the British, are wholly statutory, having been, from the beginning, enacted by Congress as the legislative power. Of these Articles we now proceed to outline the history.

Early History—Code of 1775. The second Continental Congress, having, early in its session, to wit, on June 14th, 1775, "resolved" that a military force should "be immediately raised," to "march and join the army near Boston," proceeded, on the same day, to appoint a committee, consisting of George Washington, Philip Schuyler, Silas Deane, Thomas Cushing, and Joseph Hewes, "to prepare rules and regulations for the government of the Army."¹ On June 28th following, there was reported by the committee, and on June 30th adopted by Congress, a set of Articles, prefaced by a preamble reciting the causes which had induced the Colonies to assume a defensive attitude and raise an armed force—"for the due regulating and well ordering of which," it is declared, "the following rules and orders are established."²

Of this code, comprising sixty-nine articles, the original was the existing British code in force in the "ministerial army."³

1. 1 Journals of Congress, 82. The enactments of Congress prior to the adoption of the Constitution were in the form of Resolutions.

2. 1 Jour. Cong., 83. Of this committee, Washington was, on June 15th, chosen general of the army, and Schuyler, on June 19th, a major-general. 1 Jour. Cong., 83, 86.

3. 1 Jour. Cong., 90. These Articles, with the subsequent codes, are given in the Appendix.

4. These British Articles, as copied from the original publication in possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society, are set forth in the Appendix. The fact that the two opposing armies were, at this period, governed by similar codes, has already been noticed.

Many, however, of the articles were, with slight modification copied *directly* from the intermediate MASSACHUSETTS ARTICLES of the preceding April, which may be said to have constitute the first American written code of military law.¹

The Articles of War thus inaugurated were, by a Resolution of the same Congress, of November 7, 1775,² amended and added to by sixteen further provisions intended to complete the original draft in certain particulars in which it was imperfect.³ In the meantime a provision, which was in fact a separate Article, and is still traceable in our code, relating to precedence in command between officers of the continental and provincial establishments and of the militia, had been adopted, on November 4th.

Code of 1776. The Articles of 1775 did not remain long in force. On June 14th of the following year it was *resolved* by Congress that "the committee on spies be directed to revise the rules and articles of war"⁴; this being a committee of five, consisting of John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, John Rutledge, James Wilson and R. R. Livingston, which had been previously appointed "to consider what is proper to be done with persons giving intelligence to the enemy or supplying them with provisions."⁵ New articles prepared by this committee were reported on August 7 following, and the same were agreed to by Congress on September 20th, 1776.⁶

Meanwhile, however, there had been adopted on June 17, 1776 a provision "that no officer suttle or sell to the soldiers," and

1. These articles, (inserted in the Appendix,) were adopted on April 5th, 1775, by the provisional Congress of Massachusetts Bay, for the observance of its own troops. (Am. Archives, Fourth Series, vol. I, 1350.) They were followed by similar articles adopted, in May and June of the same year, successively, by the provincial Assemblies of Connecticut and Rhode Island, and the Congress of New Hampshire (Id., vol. II, pp. 565, 1153, 1180;) in April, 1776, by the Pennsylvania Assembly, (Id., vol. V, p. 705,) and later, apparently, (see 1 Jour. Cong. 423,) by the Convention of South Carolina—for the government of the respective levies.

2. 1 Jour. Cong., 97, 167.

3. See Appendix.

4. 1 Jour. Cong., 374.

5. 1 Jour. Cong., 365. See Works of John Adams, vol. III, p. 83 to his part in procuring the enactment of these Articles.

6. 1 Jour. Cong., 435, 482. The Articles are set forth in the Appendix.

pain of fine and dismissal by sentence of court-martial.¹ And, further, on August 21st, an article providing for the punishment of spies, whose crime was made capital.²

The code of 1776, which was an enlargement, with modifications, of that of 1775, was also a complete re-casting of the same; the articles being assembled, (according to the form of arrangement of the British articles,) under separate Sections, each comprising the provisions relating to some specific or general subject.³

Amendments of 1786, &c. The Articles of 1776 continued in force till after the date of the adoption of the Constitution; meanwhile, however, undergoing certain very considerable amendments. The most important of these was the last, that of May, 31, 1786, by which Section XIV of the existing code, with "such other articles as related to the holding of courts-martial and the confirmation of the sentences thereof" was repealed and a new Section, entitled "ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE," consisting of twenty-seven articles, was substituted.⁴ The occasion of this Amendment, as expressed in the preamble of the Resolution of Congress, was the fact that the pre-existing Articles failed to make adequate provision for the trial of offenders "serving with small detachments," those articles requiring that a general court-martial should consist of thirteen members, and a regimental or garrison court of five members: in the new section the number of the inferior court was fixed at three, and the minimum of the general court at five—limitations which have subsisted to the present time.⁵

Between the dates of the code of 1776 and the important Amendments of 1786 there were enacted various other articles of war or provisions in the nature of such articles, the greater part of which, however, were but temporary in their operation.

1. 1 Jour. Cong., 377.

2. 1 Jour. Cong., 450. The resolution enacting this article was *ordered* to be "printed at the end of the rules and articles of war"—where indeed a corresponding provision has ever since remained.

3. This arrangement was abandoned in the Code of 1806, and has not since been resumed. The material differences between the articles of 1775 and 1776 will be indicated when we come to treat of the present Articles separately.

4. 4 Journals, 649. See Appendix.

5. The Articles of '86, however, amended the existing code in various particulars other than those indicated in the *preamble*.

Those which are material to be considered in connection with the study of the specific articles of the present code will hereafter noted.

Later history—Code of 1806. After the adoption of the Constitution, the Articles in force at that date were, by the First Congress, in an enactment of September 29th, 1789, expressly recognized and made to apply to the existing army. They were subsequently, (with some additions,) continued in operation, by the successive statutes by which provision was made for increasing the army¹, until the inauguration of a new code by the Act of April 10, 1806².

The Articles of 1806, which superseded all other enactments on the same subjects³, were adopted by Congress mainly for the reason that the changed form of government rendered desirable a complete revision of the code⁴. These Articles—one hundred and one in number, with an additional provision relating to the punishment of spies—remained in force, (except as amended for nearly seventy years, or till the enactment of the revised code of 1874. During this long interval the military statute law underwent but few changes prior to the commencement of the late war. After that date the alterations and additions were much more numerous. But a comparatively small proportion, however, of these modifications were permanent.

Code and Revision of 1874. The Code of 1874,—that now present in force,—consisting of one hundred and twenty-eight articles, with a supplementary provision relating to the trial and punishment of spies, is embraced in Sections 1342 and 1343 of the Revised Statutes of the United States⁵, being Chapter Five of Title XIV, "THE ARMY."

1. See Acts of April 30, 1790, s. 3; March 3, 1791, s. 3, 10; March 5, 1792, s. 11; May 9, 1794, s. 4; March 3, 1795, s. 14; May 30, 1796, s. 20; April 27, 1798, s. 2; May 28, 1798, s. 2; July 16, 1798, s. 2; March 2, 1799, c. 27, s. 8; March 2, 1799, c. 31, s. 3; March 16, 1800, s. 10; Feb. 28, 1803, s. 3. In the Acts of 1790, 1795 and 1796, it is added—"so far as the same" (the existing articles) "are applicable to the Constitution of the United States."

2. This code is given in full in the Appendix.

3. *Mills v. Martin*, 19 Johns. 23.

4. See remarks of Mr. Varnum of the House of Representatives, *Annals of Cong.*, 9th Cong., 1st Ses., p. 264; also O'Brien, 335.

5. As to what are the Revised Statutes, see Chapter XVIII—"Legislative Acts and acts of State."

Since the taking effect of the Code of 1874, but few modifications of the Articles have been enacted. Amendments in Arts. 26, 38, and 72, hereafter to be noticed, are the only ones which have as yet been resorted to. Such other changes as, in the opinion of the author, may well be made, are indicated in Chapter XXV. Our military code, however, stands alone among our public statutes in its retaining many provisions and forms of expression dating back from two hundred to five hundred years, and while it is desirable that some of the Articles should be made more precise or extended in scope, and the code itself be simplified by dropping a few Articles and consolidating others, any radical remodeling which would divest this time-honored body of law of its historical associations and interest would be greatly to be deprecated.

In subsequent parts of this work the present Articles of war will be separately reviewed, and their relations to the provisions of other existing statutes, as well as to those of the earlier sets of articles, be remarked upon.

II. OTHER STATUTORY ENACTMENTS RELATING TO THE DISCIPLINE OF THE ARMY.

The second of the components of the WRITTEN MILITARY LAW consists of those of the public statutes which concern the government or discipline of the military service but are not included in the existing code of Articles, although some of them indeed might well be classed as articles of war. The statutes referred to are those relating to such subjects as—the authority of the Superintendent of the Military Academy to convene general courts-martial and execute their sentences; the jurisdiction of courts-martial over militia, cadets, retired officers, convicts at the Military Prison and others; the trial and punishment of officers or soldiers aiding or allowing the escape of convicts; the authority of judge advocates to issue process of attachment of witnesses, and to appoint reporters; the competency of accused persons as witnesses; the disposition of the records of military courts; the restoration of dismissed officers; the dropping of officers for desertion; the trial by court-martial of officers dismissed by order; the composition of courts-martial for the trial of militia; the collection of fines imposed by courts-martial upon militia; the forfeiture of

civil rights incurred by deserters; the military relations of private traders, &c.¹

These various statutes will hereafter be recurred to, construed, or otherwise considered under the appropriate heads.

A further class of enactments, authorizing or restricting the employment of the army for civil or *quasi* civil purposes, will be reserved for consideration in Part III of this treatise.

1. See Rev. Sts., Secs. 1202, 1203, 1228, 1229, 1230, 1256, 1320, 1321, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1644, 1658, 1659-1660, 1996-1998, 4824, 5306, 5312, and Acts of June 23, 1874, c. 244, s. 2; July 24, 1876, c. 226, s. 3; March 3, 1877, c. 102, s. 1; March 16, 1878, c. 37; May 11, 1880, c. 85, s. 4.

CHAPTER III.

ARMY REGULATIONS AND ORDERS.

ARMY REGULATIONS.

In passing from Articles of war to Army Regulations, we pass from the province of one department of the government to that of another—from legislative statutes to executive acts. The subject will be treated under the following heads: I. Regulations in general; II. Regulations for the Army; III. Principles governing regulations; IV. Special sets of Regulations.

I. REGULATIONS IN GENERAL.

Their Classification—Express Authority for Regulations. While all law is regulation in a greater or less degree, regulations proper, whether army regulations or other, are administrative rules or directions as contrasted with enactments. The word "regulation" or "regulations," (as also the allied term "rules,") is employed sometimes in the Constitution¹ as descriptive of *statute law*, and this use has proved confusing to the student. A similar designation occurs in certain, especially of the earlier, public Acts, but is not frequent. As a general practice, Congress, in framing a public law and enjoining therein the performance of public business or duty, while expressing such injunction in language more or less general, disposes of the *details* of the performance in one of *three* forms.² It either goes on itself to prescribe specific rules for such performance; or it authorizes some public officer to make proper rules for the purpose; or it is entirely silent on the subject, prescribing no regulations itself and devolving no authority, in terms, upon any official. The rules of the *first* class are *statutes*: those of the *second* class *regulations* as distinguished from statutes, and bear-

1. In Art. I, Sec. 4 § 1; Id., Sec. 8 § 11, 14; Art. 4, Sec. 3 § 2.

2. See McCall's case, as cited in note, *post*.

ing a relation to statutes similar to that which the latter bear to constitutional provisions. The *first* form is comparatively rare for the reason that the Legislature can seldom foresee all the details that may require to be regulated in the course of the execution of a statute.* Of the *second* form the instances are frequent, and this is the form ordinarily adopted in enactments relating to complex subjects. Thus, by Sec. 161 of the Revised Statutes, the heads of the executive departments are authorized by Congress "to prescribe regulations not inconsistent with law" for the internal government of their departments, the conduct of the business, and the custody and use of the records and public property in their charge. So, in a multitude of minor but important statutes, Congress, in imposing or conferring some special charge or capacity, or in legislating generally upon some matter the particulars of which fall within the executive province, has specifically authorized or directed the proper executive officer—the President, or head of department, or, in some cases inferior official—to make regulations for the proper discharging of the function, or the carrying out of the details of the subject. These regulations indeed, numerous and multifarious as they are, represent the exercise of a very considerable power on the part of our public functionaries, and serve a purpose in the

1. Conspicuous instances are found in the early Acts of March 23, 1792, c. 11, s. 2; March 3, 1803, c. 37, s. 1; April 10, 1806, c. 25, s. 2 and J. R. 14 of July 23, 1846;—also in Act of April 29, 1864, c. 69, s. 1, (Sec. 4233, Rev. Sts.); in Sec. 337, Rev. Sts., and in the recent Acts of March 3, 1879, c. 195, and Aug. 2, 1882, c. 374, and March 3, 1885, c. 354.

2. *Boody v. U. S.*, 1 Wood. & Minot, 164; *U. S. v. Webster, Davis*, 38.

3. See Rev. Sts., Secs. 219, 463, 465, 466, 1109, 1142, 1174, 1175, 1214, 1241, 1307, 1319, 1522, 1525, 1549, 1620, 1695, 1703, 1752, 1753, 1797, 1801, 1893, 1960, 1969, 2050, 2058, 2071, 2086, 2089, 2110, 2127, 2263, 2381, 2397, 2442, 2450, 2478, 2496, 2505, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2521, 2544, 2651, 2804, 2858, 2866, 2871, 2897, 2898, 2915, 2944, 2949, 2956, 2971, 2973, 2976, 2982, 2989, 2994, 2999, 3001, 3003, 3005, 3006, 3007, 3019, 3021, 3022, 3026, 3053, 3057, 3064, 3103, 3109, 3120, 3129, 3143, 3144, 3206, 3215, 3220, 3226, 3261, 3291, 3293, 3297, 3310, 3315, 3322, 3329, 3330, 3345, 3351, 3360, 3362, 3369, 3379, 3386, 3396, 3411, 3426, 3427, 3428, 3441, 3442, 3445, 3446, 3447, 3464, 3505, 3527, 3551, 3568, 3574, 3575, 3581, 3645, 3647, 3881, 3911, 3932, 4061, 4067, 4075, 4140, 4462, 4739, 4761, 4787, 4815, 4825, 4862, 5184, 5229, 5232, 5293, 5304, 5306, 5315, 5561, 5567, 5569; also Acts of March 13, 1874, c. 55 s. 6; May 16, 1874, c. 180; June 20, 1874, c. 344, s. 8; June 20, 1874 c. 346, s. 5; March 3, 1875, c. 128, s. 5, 7; March 3, 1875, c. 134, s. 11

efficient administration of our Government not readily or commonly appreciated.

Implied Authority—The Third Class of Regulations.

But Congress is incapable of delegating any portion of the legislative power, and the giving, in a statute, of authority to an executive official, to make regulations for executing the same, is, in general, quite unnecessary and of no legal significance, and amounts to no more than an indication, on the part of Congress, of a purpose to leave the details of execution where in fact they properly belong, with a suggestion, sometimes, as to the particulars especially to be regulated. Thus, in the cases of a great majority of the statutes of the second class, an authority in the Executive to make regulations would legally have been *implied* without any express grant to that effect. So, there are many statutes of the *third* class—those in which Congress is silent as to the matter of the execution of the details—in which such an authority results by a legal implication from the terms or subject of the enactment, considered in connection with the inherent function of the Executive. The Constitution devolves it upon the executive department to “take care that the laws be faithfully executed.” In a case, therefore, of a law of which the

March 3, 1875, c. 136, s. 3; March 3, 1875, c. 156, s. 6; May 23, 1876, c. 104; Aug. 15, 1876, c. 289, s. 5; Aug. 15, 1876, c. 300, s. 1; J. R. 6, of March 3, 1877; Acts of April 10, 1878, c. 58; June 6, 1878, c. 156; June 2, 1879, c. 11, s. 3, 5, 6; June 16, 1880, c. 253, s. 4; June 19, 1882, c. 231; Aug. 3, 1882, c. 376; Aug. 5, 1882, c. 392, s. 4; Aug. 5, 1882, c. 398; Jan. 16, 1883, c. 27, s. 1; March 3, 1885, c. 319 s. 6; and many other provisions of minor importance or more limited application. Repeated instances also occur in the statutes where, though the word “regulations” is not employed, the same meaning is conveyed by some equivalent term or expression;—as by the term “directions,” “instructions,” “forms,” “requirements,” “restrictions,” “conditions,” “limitations,” “by-laws.” Not unfrequently a thing is required by the statute to be done in such manner, &c., as a head of a Department, &c., “may prescribe.” The “Revised Regulations for the Government of the Revenue Marine of the United States,” a pamphlet of some 70 pages of rules and forms, issued by the Secretary of the Treasury in Aug., 1871, and resting on no authority more express than is found in the terms of Secs. 2758 and 2762 placing this corps (of about one thousand members) under the general direction of the Secretary, is a striking illustration of the discretion exercised by heads of Departments in making regulations as to matters of detail.

The point may be noted here that regulations duly framed under a statute may sometimes well be referred to as a practical interpretation of the statute itself. See *U. S. v. Cottingham*, 1 Rob. (Va.) 635.

execution requires to be specifically methodized, it is the duty of that department, and it is authorized, in the absence of an *express* authority for the purpose, to prescribe the rules or directions necessary and proper to effectuate the object of the statute, care of course being taken that the regulations shall not partake of the nature of legislation. This inherent authority of the Executive—the President, or head of a Department acting for and representing him—has been repeatedly noticed and affirmed by the authorities.²

II. REGULATIONS FOR THE ARMY.

Their Original Source and Authority. The authority for army regulations proper is to be sought—primarily—in the distinctive functions of the President as Commander-in-chief and as Executive.³ His function as Commander-in-chief authorizes him to issue, personally or through his military subordinate, such orders and directions as are necessary and proper to ensure order and discipline in the army. His function as Executive empowers him, personally or through the Secretary of War,⁵

1. A very recent instance of Army regulations instituted for the purpose of executing the intent of a statute in which no authority for regulations is conveyed in terms, is that of the regulations published in G. O. 55 of 1885, for effectuating the provisions of the Act of Feb. 14, 1883, entitling enlisted men to be placed upon the retired list.

2. "Of course Congress cannot constitutionally delegate to the President legislative powers; but it may, in conferring powers constitutionally exercisable by him, prescribe, or omit prescribing, special rules of the administration, or may specially authorize him to make the rules. When Congress neither prescribes them, nor expressly authorizes him to make them, he has the authority, inherent in the powers conferred, of making regulations necessarily incidental to their exercise, and of choosing between legitimate alternative modes of their exercise." *McCall's Case*, 11 Philad. 269. And see *Wayman v. Southard*, 10 Wheaton, 42, 43; *U. S. v. Macdaniel*, 7 Peters, 2; *U. S. v. Bailey*, 9 Id. 238; *Lockington v. Smit*, 1 Peters, C. C. 471; *Boody v. U. S.*, 1 W. & M. 164; *In re Spangle*, 11 Mich. 298; *In re Griner*, 16 Wis. 423; *Antrim's Case*, 5 Philad. 28; *Allen v. Colby*, 47 N. H. 544; *Cooley*, *Prins. Const. Law*, 44; *I Opir*, *At. Gen.*, 478; 11 Id., 225, 243-5, 421; IV Id., 225, 227; VI Id., 36.

3. Compare DIGEST, p. 116, note 1.

4. That military commanders, in giving legal orders, represent the Commander-in-chief, the President, see *Clark v. Dick*, 1 Dillon, 1; *Lockington's Case*, Brightly, 289; *O'Brien*, 30.

5. That army regulations duly issued by the Secretary of War are law the acts and regulations of the President as Executive or Commander-in-chief.

prescribe rules, where requisite, for the due execution of the statutes relating to the military establishment, similarly as above noticed in treating of regulations in general. The former description of regulations scarcely differ from some of the Orders which remain to be separately noticed except in that they are of a more permanent character. Those of the latter species are more strictly "regulations," being especially within the description of rules "in aid or complement of statutes."¹

From these two sources is derived an original and sufficient authority for army regulations in general, no authority or sanction on the part of Congress being required. Congress, however, has repeatedly conferred such authority in express terms where *general* regulations were to be issued, and has sometimes also reserved to itself a right of approval or supervision of the same when made. For *special* regulations also it has frequently given an express authority.

Regulations as authorized or affected by Legislation
—The successive Publications of Regulations. The action of Congress on the subject of general army regulations, subsequently to the adoption of the Constitution,² may be said to have commenced with the Act of March 3, 1813, c. 52,

in-chief, see U. S. v. Eliason, 16 Peters, 301; Do. v. Webster, Daveis, 59; Do. v. Freeman, 1 Wood. & Minot, 50-1; Lockington's Case, Brightly, 258; McCall's Case, 5 Philad. 269; *In re* Spangler, 11 Mich. 322; Cooley's note to 2 Story, Const. Law, 314; Flanders, Expos. of Const., 169; V Opins. At. Gen., 39; DIGEST, 445-6, and note.

1. VIII Opins. At. Gen., 343.

2. Prior to the adoption of the Constitution, Congress, (which then constituted the government,) provided from time to time for regulations for the army, principally for the government of the staff corps. In some cases the Board of War, then consisting of civilians, was directed to make regulations. (2 Journals of Congress, 432, 520; 3 Id., 328.) In others, chiefs of the different corps were so authorized; as the Quartermaster General, for certain classes of his employes, (Id., 126; 3 Id., 253, 496;) the Inspector General, (3 Id., 203, 523, 525;) the Director of Military Hospitals, (Id., 527;) and the Medical Board, (Id., 705.) The Secretary of War, after one was appointed by Congress, was, in addition to his general duties, required to "regulate," or "direct," as to certain special subjects—as the making of payments and returns and keeping of accounts by regimental paymasters, (4 Journals, 7,) the making and transmitting of returns by officers generally, (Id., 9;) and the duties of the commissary general of prisoners. (Id.) On March 29, 1779, Major General (Baron) Steuben's "System of Regulations for the Infantry of the United States," a work consisting mainly of tactics and

s. 5,¹ in which the Secretary of War was authorized and required "to prepare general regulations better defining and prescribing the respective duties and powers of the several officers in the adjutant general, inspector general, quartermaster general, and commissary of ordnance departments, of the topographical engineers, of the aids of generals, and generally of the general and regimental staff which regulations,"—it was added—"when approved by the President of the United States, shall be respected and obeyed until altered or revoked by the same authority. And the said general regulations, thus prepared and approved, shall be laid before Congress at their next session."

Under this statute there was published a brief manual of regulations of some sixty duodecimo pages—the original of the compend now in use—bearing the endorsement: "Approved by the President, War Office, 1st May, 1813." These regulations were laid before Congress on June 7th, 1813, but no legislative action was taken upon them.²

The next statute³ of general importance was that of April 24, 1816, c. 69, ("for organizing the general staff," &c.), by which in section 9, it was enacted "that the regulations in force before the reduction of the army," (referring to the Act of March 3, 1815 "fixing the military peace establishment," after the war with Great Britain,) be recognized, as far as the same shall be found applicable to the service, subject however to such alterations as the Secretary of War may adopt with the approbation of the President."⁴

In view of the authority thus given for additions and amendments, there was published a second and more extended set of

instructions for field service, was adopted and ordered to be observed in the army. (3 Id., 237.) As to the publications of these and other early regulations and orders, see further in Gen. J. B. Fry's Pamphlet on "The different editions of Army Regulations," New York, April 10, 1876.

1. For *prior* legislation of inferior and temporary importance the student is referred to the Acts of May 9, 1794, c. 24, s. 5; March 2, 1799, c. 27, s. 5; Jan. 2, 1812, c. 11, s. 1; July 6, 1812, c. 128; March 3, 1813, c. 48, s. 5. The provision of March 19, 1802, relating to Regulations for the Military Academy, will be hereafter separately noticed.

2. Annals of Congress for 1813, pp. 23, 144.

3. The intermediate Act of Feb. 8, 1815, c. 38, s. 4, 10, provided specially for regulations for the ordnance department.

4. In s. 7 of this Act it was further provided "that the manner of issuing and accounting for clothing shall be established in the general regulations of the War Department."

regulations, (embracing amplified regulations for the ordnance corps,) dated "September, 1816." These were republished with additions in 1817 and 1820; and, on March 2, 1821, in section 14 of chapter 13 of the Acts of that year, a revision, by Gen. Scott, of the existing regulations, received the formal sanction of Congress by enactment as follows:—"that the system of 'general regulations for the army', compiled by Major General Scott, shall be, and the same is, hereby approved and adopted for the government of the army of the United States, and of the militia when in the service of the United States." In the next year, however, (1822,) by Act of May 7th, c. 88, the section of 1821 was expressly "repealed"; the grounds for this action mainly being that the regulations as adopted operated with injustice in the provision authorizing the transfer of officers, and also in that relating to brevet rank.¹ Neither of these provisions has, to the present time, been repeated in the regulations for the army.

The regulations approved in 1821 were first published to the army in "July, 1821," when they were prefaced by an order of the Secretary of War, which recited that they had been approved by Congress, with the exception of fourteen, (indicated by their numbers,) which had "received the sanction of the President." These regulations, notwithstanding the legislation of 1822, continued to be observed² till March 1, 1825, when an enlarged edition was published to the army. This, with some modifications, remained in force till Sept. 1, 1835, at which date a revision by Major General Macomb was printed by authority of the War Department, which was re-issued with amendments on Dec. 31, 1836. Further, on January 25, 1841, May 1, 1847, January 1, 1857, and August 10, 1861, successive revisions, containing additions and variations, were promulgated; each publication exhibiting an introductory announcement to the effect that the

1. Annals of Congress for 1822, pp. 1730-1734, 1753-1758, 1868. And see Gen. Fry's Pamphlet, (above cited,) p. 4.

2. They were so observed because of the previous sanction of the President, (under the Act of 1816,) which sanction was held by Atty. Gen. Wirt to have given them an efficacy not affected by the legislation of 1822. 1 Opins. 547. And see G. O., War Dept., May 22, 1822, in which, in stating the fact of the repeal of the provision of 1821 by that of 1822, it is announced that—"the General Regulations for the Army" thus "rest solely on the sanction of the President. The said Regulations are therefore continued in force by his authority in all cases where they do not conflict with positive legislation."

regulations thus revised had been approved by the President and were by his command published for the information and government of the military service", to be from their date "strictly observed as the sole and standing authority upon the matter therein contained." And it is added, in the more recent issues,—“nothing contrary to the tenor of these regulations will be enjoined in any part of the forces of the United States by any commander whatever”. The revision of 1861 was republished as of June 25, 1863, and this last edition remained in use during the latter portion of the late war and subsequently till the year 1881.

Until the year 1866, the enactments of 1813 and 1816 continued to constitute the main legislative authority and sanction for the making and amending¹ of general army regulations; these enactments indeed being from time to time supplemented by special statutory provisions relating to particular branches of the service.²

1. The power to *amend* the existing regulations, as conveyed by the Act of 1816, was repeatedly recognized by the authorities during this interval. Thus Atty. Gen. Wirt, in an opinion addressed to the Secretary of War in 1821, observes:—"I have no doubt that the Secretary may, with the approbation of the President, alter at pleasure the existing regulations, * * * even although such alteration should go to an entire change of the present system; provided that such regulations, as proposed to be altered, be consistent with the Constitution and laws of the United States." 1 Opins., 470. And see, to a similar effect, 1 Id., 549; 111 Id., 85. Later, Atty. Gen. Cushing, referring to the enactment of 1816 as a "permanent provision" for army regulations, remarks that—"under this authority it is that the subsisting" (1853) "regulations for the army have legal effect." VI Opins. 15. That the Act of 1816 authorized the Executive to alter at discretion the regulations recognized by it as in force, is also held by a United States Court in *U. S. v. Maurice*, 2 Brock. 105. And compare, as to the authority to alter the regulations for the Navy, given by the Act of July 14, 1862, (Sec. 1547, R. S., the opinion of Atty. Gen. Bates in X Opins. 416.

It may be noted that the army regulations during this interval received indirect sanction from repeated statutes referring to them in general terms as the "existing regulations," and also from a series of appropriation Acts in which appropriation was made for the "printing" of the same.

2. Of these provisions a considerable proportion still remain, in whole or in part, in force; the principal being the Acts of April 14, 1818, c. 17, (Rev. Sts., Sec. 1141;) May 15, 1820, c. 102, s. 3, (R. S., Sec. 1141;) March 3, 1825, c. 93, s. 2, (R. S., Sec. 1241;) April 5, 1832, c. 67, (R. S., Secs. 1109, 1110;) Aug. 23, 1842, c. 186, s. 3, (R. S., Sec. 1155;) May 15, 1846, c. 21, s. 5, (R. S., Sec. 1152;) Aug. 4, 1847, c. 247, s. 5, (R. S., Sec. 1214;) Aug. 16, 1856, c. 125, (R. S., Sec. 1179;) Aug. 3, 1861, c. 42, s. 14, (R. S., Sec. 1175;) July 17

Later legislation. In 1866, by the Act of July 28, c. 299, 'fixing the military peace establishment' at the end of the war, the Secretary of War was "*directed to have prepared, and to report to Congress, at its next session, a code of regulations for the government of the army and of the militia in actual service, which shall embrace all necessary orders and forms of a general character for the performance of all duties incumbent on officers and men in the military service, including rules for the government of courts-martial. The existing regulations to remain in force until Congress shall have acted on said report.*" Here the general regulations in use in the army were, as a whole, for the first time since 1821, formally approved and recognized by Congress, and, for the first time since 1816, (when however *new* regulations were authorized only as "alterations" of those existing,) provision was made for a new issue. No regulations, however, were reported to Congress

1862, c. 201, s. 1, (R. S., Secs. 1643, 1648;) March 3, 1863, c. 78, s. 8, (R. S., Sec. 1174;) March 3, 1865, c. 81, s. 5, (R. S., Sec. 1145.)

Within this period also fall sundry statutes, authorizing or directing the making of special military regulations of but secondary importance and temporary operation,—such as the following: Act of June 15, 1832, c. 131, s. 1, (discipline of mounted rangers;) J. R. of July 29, 1848, (pay of troops in Mexican war;) Acts of Jan. 31, 1862, c. 15, s. 1, (use of telegraph and railroad lines;) April 16, 1862, c. 55, s. 2, 3, (duties of certain medical officers;) J. R. of July 12, 1862, (issue of clothing to sick, &c., soldiers;) Acts of July 17, 1862, c. 201, s. 12, (employment of colored troops, &c.;;) Dec. 27, 1862, c. 5, s. 2, (duties of medical inspectors;) Feb. 7, 1863, c. 23, s. 6, 7, (employment of Kentucky vols.;;) March 3, 1863, c. 75, s. 6, 16, (Prov. Mar. Genl's Dept.;;) Feb. 24, 1864, c. 13, s. 5, 7, (turnishing substitutes for drafted persons, and enlistment of soldiers into the navy;) March 11, 1864, c. 27, s. 4, 5, (as to the ambulance corps;) June 15, 1864, c. 124, s. 4, and March 3, 1865, c. 79, s. 5, (pay, &c., of colored troops;) June 25, 1864, c. 149, s. 2, (examination of staff officers;) July 4, 1864, c. 253, s. 1, (business in Q. M. Dept.;;) March 3, 1865, c. 79, s. 14, (credits for drafted troops;) March 3, 1865, c. 90, s. 1, 2, (bureau of refugees, freedmen, &c.;;) July 16, 1866, c. 200, s. 14, (military protection of certain civilians;) July 28, 1866, c. 296, s. 15, (payment of additional bounty.)

Of the special regulations of this period the most extended and important were those which proceeded from the Provost Marshal General's Bureau, with the approval of the Secretary of War, under the Act of 1863 above cited. A set of these, first issued on April 21, 1863, was revised and republished with additions on May 1, 1864, and again on Sept. 1, 1864.

The Act of March 3, 1851, c. 25, s. 2, 9, providing for regulations for the Military Asylum, (now Soldiers' Home,) not noted above, will be referred to hereafter.

under this Act, or till after the passage of the Act next to be mentioned.

Later, in 1870,¹ by s. 20, c. 294, Act of July 15, the legislation of 1866 was, so far as regards the provision for new regulations substantially superseded by an enactment—"that the Secretary of War shall prepare a system of general regulations for the administration of the affairs of the army, which, when approved by Congress, shall be in force and obeyed until altered or revoked by the same authority; and said regulations shall be reported to Congress at its next session." In compliance with this statute, a complete set of army regulations were reported to Congress by the Secretary of War, on Feb. 17, 1873.²

No determinate action, however, was taken upon these regulations by Congress; but, in 1875, by act of March 1, c. 115, (still in force,) the requirement of the section of 1870, that the regulations be reported to and approved by Congress, was "repealed, and the President was specifically "authorized under said section to make and publish regulations for the government of the army in accordance with existing laws." Here Congress relinquished the right, which it had repeatedly reserved in previous statutes of ratifying, or at least supervising, the regulations, and surrendered to the Executive the fullest control over the subject. For not only is the President hereby empowered to make regulations without restriction as to form, quantity, or quality, but also without limitation as to time. He thus has the power to re-make and alter, in the future³—a power expressly given by the Act of 1816 and exercised thereunder till 1866, divested apparently by the legislation of the latter year,⁴ reserved to Congress by the Act of 1870, but now fully restored.

1. Meanwhile special regulations relating to military subjects were authorized by several statutes of which the following are still in force:—Act of July 28, 1866, c. 299, s. 17, (Rev. Sts., Sec. 1180, as to hospital stewards;) J. R. of May 4, 1870, (Id., Sec. 1225, as to issue of arms, &c. for colleges;) Act of June 17, 1870, c. 132, s. 1, (Id., Sec. 4787, as to artificial limbs, &c., for disabled soldiers.)

2. These regulations are printed in Report, No. 85, Ho. of Reps. 42d Cong., 3d Sess.

3. In U. S. v. Eliason, 16 Peters, 301-2, the Supreme Court, referring to the general power of the Executive to establish regulations for the government of the army, say—"The power to establish implies, necessarily, the power to modify or repeal, or to create anew." And see 1 Opins., 63; 5 Id., 41.

4. See XIV Opins. 173. The view, however, expressed by the Att.

In the next year, (1876,) however, by a Joint Resolution of Aug. 15, Congress "requested" the President "*to postpone all action in connection with the publication of said regulations until after the report*" of the Commission on the reform and reorganization of the army, created by Act of July 24, 1876, was "*received and acted upon by Congress at its next session.*"¹

Upon the "report" here indicated no final action was ever taken, and the said Commission was, after March 4, 1879, discontinued. Thereupon, by Act of June 23d of that year,² the Secretary of War was "*authorized and directed to cause all the regulations of the army and general orders now in force to be codified and published to the army, and to defray the expenses thereof out of the contingent fund of the army.*"

The present Army Regulations. Upon this legislation, which was in effect an appropriation for the expense of carrying out the enactment of 1875, a compilation of regulations and general orders, in force on Feb. 17, 1881, was made and published to the army by the Secretary of War as of that date. This compend comprises the present Army Regulations. The volume embraces the various usages and general rules previously in force relating to the command and internal administration and routine of the military establishment, promotion of officers, discipline of posts and of troops in the field, instruction of officers and soldiers, business of staff departments, care of arms, stores, and public animals, reports and returns with forms for the same, recruiting service, procedure of courts-martial, duties of civil employees, &c. The publication includes also special regulations prescribed or authorized by express statute as to particular subjects—as the issue of arms to colleges and the duties of officers detailed thereat as professors, (see Rev. Sts., Sec. 1225;) the duties of ordnance sergeants and hospital stewards, (Id., Secs. 1109, 1180;) the uniform of the army and issue of clothing to troops, (Id., Sec. 1296;) deposit of soldiers' savings, (Id., Sec. 1307;) national cemeteries,

Gen., in this opinion, as to amendments, was not followed by the Secretary of War; repeated amendments being made and published in Orders between 1866 and 1875.

1. Meanwhile—since 1870—had intervened the Act of Aug. 15, 1876, c. 300, authorizing regulations as to the furnishing of artificial limbs in certain cases, and the Acts of March 3, 1873, c. 249, s. 2, and April 10, 1878, c. 58, to be hereafter referred to, providing for regulations for the Military Prison and for the preparation, &c., of bids for contracts.

162. Sec. 4589: making of bids for contracts. Act of April 10 1875.¹

Since the publication of these "Regulations," the authority to modify the same has been most freely exercised; a multitude of amendments, additions and revocations having been announced in *General Orders*.²

No legislation of Congress on the subject of general regulation has since been had.³

Legal Effect and Force of Army Regulations. We have seen that Congress, in the existing law, no longer reserve to itself the function of approving the army regulations, or make the approval of the same a condition to their taking effect, but that under the Act of 1875 above cited, the President is vested with a general and exclusive authority to make and publish regulations for the army. As has heretofore been remarked, he may in the due execution of the laws for the government of the army make needful and proper regulations without any legislative authority whatever, similarly as he may give orders as commander-in-chief. A statutory authority for general army regulations is indeed mainly useful and significant as a justification of such expenses as it may be necessary from time to time to incur in the publication of the regulations, since it implies that the requisite appropriation for the same will be made by Congress.

But, whether or not resting upon any express authority of statute, the *legal effect* of army regulations—as of other regulations proper—is, as already indicated, simply that of executive

1. The regulations specifically authorized by this Act were made on occasion for the preparation and adoption of much more extended regulations covering the general subject of contracts and purchases for the Army. See pars. 1478-1579, Art. LXXV, Army Regulations.

2. Since the issue of these Regulations, and up to October 1, 1889 amendments of the same were published in about *Two Hundred and Fifty* separate General Orders. Many of these Orders contain amendments of more than one, often of several, regulations. Certain regulations are amended not once but several times in successive Orders.

3. Special regulations have indeed been authorized for particular purposes. As, by the Act of June 30, 1882, c. 254, s. 1, for the conduct of the Army and Navy Hospital to be erected at Hot Springs, Arkansas and by the same Act, s. 3, in regard to the crediting of recruits with necessary articles furnished them before joining their companies.

administrative, instrumental rules and directions as distinguished from statutory enactment.¹ It is indeed loosely said of the army regulations by some of the authorities² that they have "the force of law," but this expression is well explained by the court in *U. S. v. Webster*,³ as follows:—"When it is said that they have the force of law, nothing more is meant than that they have that virtue when they are consistent with the laws established by the Legislature." That is to say, while they have a legal force, it is a force quite distinct from, and inferior and subordinate to, that of the statute law. They are thus not law in the sense of being a part of the "law of the land," nor are they embraced in the designation, "laws of the United States," but are law, and operative, *as regulations* only. As such they are law to the army and those whom they may concern, and so far are binding and conclusive.⁴ The President, equally with the most subordinate officer, is bound by executive regulations: although he may be empowered to alter or abrogate them, they are conclusive upon him while they remain in force.⁵ They are also recognized as conclusive upon the courts in cases to which they apply;⁶ and when made in and for one department of the government, they are conclusive upon any other department in which, in the settlement of accounts or claims, or otherwise, they are found to be pertinent to the subject.⁷

The binding force and application to the army of the army

1. IV Opins. At. Gen., 62; VIII Id., 343.

2. *Gratiot v. U. S.*, 4 Howard, 117; XIV Opins. At. Gen., 173.

3. *Daveis*, (2 Ware,) 54.

4. See II Opins. At. Gen., 520, 580; *O'Brien*, 31; *U. S. v. Freeman*, 3 Howard, 567; *U. S. v. Morrison*, 96 U. S., 233; also *Arthur v. U. S.*, 16 Ct. Cl., 422, where it was held that a contract made by the Surgeon General with an acting assistant surgeon for a compensation in excess of that fixed by the army regulations did not bind the United States. And compare *Camp v. U. S.*, 113 U. S. 648.

5. X Opins. At. Gen., 17.

6. *Lockington's Case*, Brightly, 269; *Hughes v. Oaks*, 59 Pa. St. 52. In the latter case, (p. 42,) the court, in reference to the authority devolved upon the Secretary of the Treasury by the Acts of July 13, 1861, and May 20, 1862, to prescribe regulations in regard to commercial intercourse pending the late war, observe:—"A sound discretion is vested in him, and it being of a governmental character, it is not liable to our revision or reversal." But see *post* as to the action of the courts where regulations are not *equitable*.

7. V Opins. At. Gen., 39-40; *U. S. v. Freeman*, 3 Howard, 567.

regulations is illustrated by the fact that a failure to observe regulation may constitute a military offence cognizable by court martial under the 62d Art. of war.¹ On the other hand, officers and soldiers, in complying with an authorized regulation will be justified in law and protected by the courts.²

III. PRINCIPLES GOVERNING REGULATIONS.

But, to have legal force and effect, the regulations must conform to certain principles, as follows:³

1. They must not contravene existing law. Regulation proper being subordinate to statutory and constitutional law it is clear that an executive regulation may not conflict with or contravene either the Constitution or the provisions of an Act of Congress, and that, where it does so, it is, so far, of no effect. So, if Congress by express legislation should cover the ground previously occupied by such a regulation, the latter would be displaced and become inoperative, the higher law being paramount.

It is in recognition of this principle that, in statutes authorizing or directing the making of regulations, it is not unfrequently prescribed in express terms that the same shall not be inconsistent with, or contrary or repugnant to, the laws, or the Constitution and laws, of the United States, or in words of like import.

1. DIGEST, 45, 118.

2. *Gates v. Thatcher*, 11 Minn., 204. Note the Act of Dec. 17, 1874, c. 1, in regard to the laying of an embargo, in which, (s. 11,) it is provided that a collector sued for exercising certain powers under the statute, "may give this Act and the *instructions and regulations of the President* in evidence for his justification and defence."

3. Should army regulations in the future materially fail to conform to the principles stated, they may invite from Congress action similar to that taken in 1822. See *ante*.

4. *U. S. v. Webster, Daveis*, (2 Ware,) 54; *Boody v. U. S.*, 1 Woodb. Minot, 164; *McCall's Case*, 5 Philad. 259; *In re Spangler*, 11 Mich., 3; *Magruder v. U. S.*, Devereux, 148; *Harvey v. U. S.*, 3 Ct. Cl., 41; 11 Opins. At. Gen. 470; 11 Id., 57-8, 232; 5 Id., 62; 6 Id., 10, 215; 11 Id., 254; 11 Id., 516; O'Brien, 31. In a recent Order, G. O. Hdqrs. Army, 1882, a certain regulation is "annulled" as being in conflict with "a provision of the Rev. Sts."

5. 11 Opins. At. Gen., 232. And see *McCall's Case*, 269, 273.

6. See, for example, Rev. Sts., Secs. 1752, 2058, 2651, 2949, 3001, 3003, 3057, 3215, 4825, Acts of June 20, 1874, c. 344, s. 8; March 3, 1875, c. 130, s. 3; June 16, 1880, c. 253, 4; June 19, 1882, c. 231, s. 1. The Act of March 1, 1875, authorizing the issue of the present ar-

But such a provision is of course surplusage, a condition to this effect being always implied.

2. *They must not legislate.* Regulations must confine themselves within their appropriate province—must not trench upon that of legislation. A regulation which assumes to prescribe in regard to a matter which is properly a subject for original legislation departs from “the range of purely executive or administrative action,”¹ is in a just sense a regulation no longer, and can have no legal effect as such. The leading case illustrative of this principle is that of the regulations for the navy, entitled a “System of Orders and Instructions,” issued by the President in 1853, and which were condemned by Attorney General Cushing as being mainly of a “legislative quality,” and in derogation of the constitutional powers of Congress, and therefore unauthorized and inoperative.² Similar views have been expressed by the authorities in other cases of a similar nature;³ and it can scarcely be questioned that army regulations which assume to control enlistments, to vest or divest rights to pay or rank, to dispose of public property, to administer justice, to prescribe rules of evidence, or to regulate any other subject usually and properly regulated by the legislative power,—are *ultra vires* and unauthorized.⁴

Whether indeed a regulation does or does not partake of the character of legislation may sometimes be an embarrassing question. It has been remarked by Attorney General Cushing that “cases may be supposed in which it is not easy to draw the line between what is legislative and what is executive and minis-

regulations, requires that they shall be “in accordance with existing laws.” In Rev. Sts., Sec. 2086, it is specified that certain regulations authorized shall be “not inconsistent with treaty stipulations,” (with Indians.)

1. VI Opins. At. Gen., 15. In *Magruder v. U. S.*, Devereux, 148, the Court of Claims, referring to regulations, observe—“It is the duty of the Departments to administer the law, and not to make it.”

2. VI Opins. At. Gen. 10-19.

3. X Opins. At. Gen. 11-18, 413-4; IV Id., 226; *In re Griner*, 16 Wis. 433-4; *McCall's Case*, 5 Philad. 269.

4. Compare *Clode*, 1 M. F., 150, (and see *Grant v. Gould*, 2 H. Bl. 100,) as to the point that the Crown is not authorized to make articles of war relating to any subject other than the government of the army. And see Chapter XXV, (Third Article,) “Enlistment in general.”

import, in respect to the degree of the authority, is in general to be ascribed to the words "authorized" and "required," or their synonyms. Nor is the scope of the authority necessarily to be deemed to be essentially affected by the character or dignity of the official in whom it is vested. But where the regulations are to pertain to an extended and unusually important subject, as where they are to carry into effect an entire statute of many or varied provisions; where they are to adjust the details of a ramified and comprehensive system; where high public considerations enter into the execution of the Act under which they are to be established;—in cases such as these the authority must needs be larger and more liberally construable than where the subject of a single provision, or a subject of a limited range or consequence, is to be regulated.¹ The widest discretion in the framing of regulations may, it is conceived, properly be taken by the Executive in a case where the enactment conveying the authority has been prompted by the necessities of a grave public emergency, and especially an existing or impending state of war.²

4. They must be uniform. The further minor principle has also been noticed by the authorities that regulations must be "*uniform*," that is to say in their application;—that they must apply equally and alike to all the persons or subjects of the class to which they relate. In this view, Attorney General Legaré, in advising the Secretary of the Treasury as to certain regulations to be issued by him under the revenue laws, observes—"I need scarcely add that your regulations must be uniform throughout the Union."³ So the Supreme Court, in an adjudged case,⁴ remark, of army regulations, that they "must be uniform and applicable to all officers under the same circumstances." In a few instances the public statutes, in providing for regulations, have specifically required that they be "*uniform*."⁵

5. They should be equitable. It need scarcely be added

1. See *The Thomas Gibbons*, 8 Cranch, 428-9; *Lockington v. Smith*, 1 Peters, C. C., 470-473.

2. *Hughes v. Oaks*, 59 Pa. St. 41, 42.

3. IV Opins., 63.

4. *U. S. v. Ripley*, 7 Peters, 25. And see *U. S. v. Webster*, Daveis, (2 Ware,) 60.

5. As in the Acts of Aug. 10, 1846, c. 175, s. 2; March 3, 1863, c. 71, s. 27.

that regulations should be just and equitable—that they should not be arbitrary or oppressive.¹ As already noticed, a regulation cannot deprive a person of a legal right,² and where a regulation is found to work an injustice in any material matter, as in the settlement of an officer's accounts, it will be disregarded by the courts.³

Objectionable Features of Army Regulations. To the student, as well as in practice, army regulations are the most unsatisfactory element of our written military law. Presented in connection with statutes from which they are sometimes imperfectly discriminated; not unfrequently themselves partaking of the character of legislation and thus of doubtful validity and fatally subject, as we have seen, to constant and repeated modification, their effect too often is to embarrass and mislead where they should assure and facilitate. To render them entirely useful, they should, in the opinion of the author, be reduced to the smallest available bulk; all that are really statutes and all that are of a legislative quality should be eliminated; only those should be included that are purely *general*, those relating to the business of the staff corps being left to be established by the heads of the same, subject to the approval of the President; and the authority to amend should be most rarely exercised.

IV. SPECIAL SETS OF REGULATIONS.

Besides the special regulations for certain of the staff departments of the Army—as the Ordnance, Medical, Subsistence, &c. departments—which are contained only in part in the General Army Regulations, there are special sets of regulations, in no part embraced therein, which may properly be noticed in this Chapter—as follows:

1. The Regulations for the Military Academy. While the cadets, professors, &c., of the West Point Military Academy

1. "It would be directly repugnant to the character of the power conferred, to suppose that a power to make *rules* was a power to dispense with them altogether, and to substitute in their place caprice or arbitrary discretion." Atty. Gen. Toucey, V Opins. 42.

2. See IV Opins. At. Gen., 223.

3. U. S. v. Cadwalader, Gilpin, 563. And see U. S. v. Mann, Brock., 9, 11.

are, as a part of the Army, subject to the Army Regulations,¹ they are also subject to special regulations framed expressly for their government as a separate branch of the military establishment. These regulations, initiated in the authority given by or implied from the Acts of March 16, 1802, c. 9, s. 26-28 and April 29, 1812, c. 72, s. 3, organizing and making provision for the corps of engineers,² now consist of a set, of 362 paragraphs, published in 1877, and republished June 1, 1883; this revision having been preceded by various issues of which the principal were published in 1831, 1853, 1857, 1866 and 1873. Less extended regulations had previously existed in writing and are found in records of the Engineer bureau dated as early as in 1817 and 1818.

The authority and binding force of the special regulations for the Academy, and the power of the President to modify and add to the same, have been recognized in the opinions of the Attorneys General.³

It need hardly be observed that the principles, heretofore indicated as properly governing the framing of general regulations for the army and their substance, are equally applicable to these special regulations.⁴

2. Regulations for the Military Prisons. The Act of March 3, 1873, c. 249, which provided for the establishment of the Military Prison now maintained at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, required the Secretary of War to organize a Board of direction which, it was added, should "frame regulations for the government of the prisoners in accordance with the provisions of the Act."⁵

A set of regulations for this purpose was published from the Headquarters of the Army in G. O. 12 of Feb. 19, 1877, and a subsequent amended set—that now in force—in G. O. 100 of

1. VII Opins. At. Gen., 328.

2. The published volume includes also regulations specially authorized or directed, by Secs. 1319 and 1330, Rev. Sts., to be prescribed for the examination of appointees to cadetships, and in regard to the granting of leaves of absence to officers of the Academy.

3. I Opins. At. Gen., 469; VII Id., 328.

4. The only portion of these regulations which would appear to be subject to criticism is that relating to "Discipline." Some of the paragraphs under this head are in the form of *articles of war*, and might thus be deemed to trench upon the province of *legislation*.

5. Rev. Sts., Sec. 1345.

1883. These relate to the duties of the officers and employee at the institution and the books and accounts to be kept by them and further to the admission, classification, diet, clothing, labor and discipline, of the prisoners, the school and library for the same, &c.

For the military prison at Alcatraz Island, California, (not established by statute,) rules and regulations were adopted and published by an order of the Department Commander, dated August 29, 1873, and revised and republished in August, 1880.

3. Regulations for the Soldiers' Home and the National Asylum for Volunteers. As the inmates of these institutions are made subject by statute to the Articles of War and the former is placed under military direction, the regulations for the same may properly be noticed here.

Soldiers' Home. By the Act of March 3, 1851, c. 25, entitled "an Act to found a Military Asylum," it is provided that certain designated officers of the army "shall be *ex officio* Commissioners of the same," and these Commissioners are further empowered to establish from time to time regulations for the government and direction of the institution, subject to the approval of the Secretary of War.¹

Under this authority regulations were adopted on March 2 and May 30, 1851, which were revised October 8, 1866. A new set was adopted January 31, 1883, which, however, was replaced by a revised set—that now in force—of April 9, 1883, approved by the Secretary of War, April 17, 1883. These regulations relate to the qualifications for admission to the Home, applications for admission, the rights and privileges of the inmates as to their government, the duties of the officers of the institution, the function of the Board of Commissioners, &c.

Volunteer Asylum. By the Act of March 3, 1865, incorporating this institution, as amended by that of March 21, 1866, the designated Board of managers, who are also the corporation, is authorized "to make by-laws, rules and regulations, for carrying on the business and government of the home, and to affix penalties thereto."²

1. Secs. 4824, 4835, Rev. Sts. But see Chapter VIII.

2. Rev. Sts., Sec. 4815. Amended, and the Board of Commissioners reconstituted by Act of March 3, 1883, c. 130.

3. Rev. Sts., Sec. 4825.

Pursuant to such authority, there was adopted by the Board in 1866 a set of by-laws and regulations, consisting of 23 Articles, and relating mainly to the appointment and duties of the officers of the institution and the admission and disposition of its beneficiaries. In Art. 18, in which the duties of the "Governor" are set forth, it is provided that—"he shall from time to time make printed rules for the government of the employees and inmates of the Institution." Such rules have accordingly been made and published, in the form of General and Special Orders, &c., relating to military organization, discipline, labor, police, inspection, superintendence of shops, farm, &c., creation of a fire company, use and disposition of clothing, issue of quartermaster stores and tobacco, free postage, passes, and a variety of other subjects.

II. ORDERS.

All orders, written or oral, made or given by any competent authority, from the commander-in-chief to an acting corporal, are indeed in a general sense a part of the law military; their observance by inferiors being strictly enjoined and their non-observance made strictly punishable. The orders, however, to which reference is now to be made, are the formal, generally printed, Orders, issued by the highest authority of the Army or of some high command, and preserved as a part of the permanent records of the military establishment.

Orders of the President. As constitutional Commander-in-chief of the Army, and independently of course of any authorization or action of Congress, the President is empowered to issue orders to his command; and the orders duly issued by him in this capacity, while of but temporary importance as compared with his general army regulations, are obligatory and binding upon whom they concern, and so properly classed as a portion of the general law military. The validity and force of such orders have been repeatedly recognized by the authorities.¹

1. See II Opins. At. Gen., 225, 228, 232; V Id., 15; X Id., 14; The Thomas Gibbons, 8 Cranch, 427; U. S. v. Freeman, 1 Wood. & Minot, 50; Cowell v. Hopkinton, 45 N. H., 14.

Congress has, in some instances, expressly directed that certain matters "be published in General Orders." See Acts of June 25, 1864, c. 149, s. 2; July 4, 1864, c. 253, s. 6, 10.

Their form and contents. The orders of the President, commonly issued, are in the form of and designated as General and Special Orders; the latter which relate chiefly to individual cases not being, in practice, published to the army at large. Since 1864, the orders announcing the action of the President upon the proceedings of general courts-martial, which before were incorporated with the other General Orders, have been separately issued and numbered under the name of General Court Martial Orders.¹ Both General and Special Orders have formerly for considerable periods emanated directly from the Secretary of War, who, in making and publishing the same, as in most of his other official proceedings,² acts as the representative and presumably by the direction of the President.³ Such Orders are now, however, usually promulgated through the Headquarters of the Army; although the provision of the Act of March 2, 1867, requiring that "all orders and instructions relating to military operations" should be "issued through the General of the Army," was repealed by the Act of July 15, 1870, c. 294, s. 15.

As has heretofore been noticed, the General Orders in force on Feb. 17, 1881, were, by the authority and direction of the Act of June 23, 1879, compiled and published by the Secretary of War in connection with the existing Army Regulations, and printed therewith in the volume issued from the War Department on the date first named: they were thus practically converted into regulations.

The General Orders cover a great variety of particulars connected with the discipline, employment, pay, clothing, subsistence, quartering and transportation of the army, the providing

1. Similar forms and designations are given to the Orders issued from the Headquarters of Military Divisions and Departments, and of Armies in time of war.

2. In *all*, except where Congress has, as it may do, invested him with independent powers or devolved upon him independent duties. See *Kendall v. U. S.*, 12 Peters, 610.

3. *Parker v. U. S.*, 1 Peters, 297; *U. S. v. Eliason*, 13 Id., 302; *U. S. v. Freeman*, 1 Wood & Minot, 50; *Lockington's Case*, Brightly, 282; *In re Matter of Spangler*, 11 Mich., 313, 322; 1 Opins. At. Gen., 380; *V. Id.*, 453; *X Id.*, 14; *XIV Id.*, 458.

In some instances during the late war, orders termed "Executive Orders" or "War Orders," were issued directly by the President in his own name, similarly to proclamations. See such orders in Vol. XI *Stat. at Large*, pp. 775-778; G. O., War Dept., of March 11, 1866, Do. 272, 300, 331, of 1863; Do. 35, 100, 308, of 1864.

them with animals, arms, munitions, &c. As certain so-called "Regulations" are not properly classed as such, so a considerable proportion of the General Orders are not orders at all but *media* for the promulgation to the army of new legislation of Congress, regulations made or amended, appointments, promotions, &c., of officers, opinions of courts or law-officers, or other matters of information of value to the service. In time of peace indeed the Special Orders, by which direction is more commonly given as to the duties of inferior officers, changes of station, details of general courts, discharges of soldiers, &c., &c., are in a larger proportion orders proper than those designated as General. In connection with the General Orders are from time to time published "Circulars" to the army, the usual purpose of which is not to convey commands but to advise officers, &c., of matters of which they will properly take notice in the course of the performance of their functions and duties.

Orders of Military Commanders. Of a similar force and effect to the Orders of the President, though within a narrower range, are the General and General Court Martial Orders, and Special Orders, made and published by the superior military commanders, such as commanders of Divisions and Departments. As to the Orders thus promulgated in their general military capacity, these commanders directly represent, and exercise in a greater or less degree the authority of, the Commander-in-chief.¹ In the Orders in which they act upon the proceedings and sentences of courts-martial, they exercise an authority expressly conferred upon them by statute, though here too they act practically as substitutes for the Commander-in-chief. The very numerous Orders, especially of the latter character, issued during the late war, are a monument to the fidelity to duty and scrupulous regard for justice which have in general characterized our high commanders in war as well as in peace. In the thousands of these Orders published during that period from the headquarters of the various departments, divisions, districts, brigades, armies and army corps, the errors of law discovered have been strikingly few, and the cases in which justice has not clearly been duly administered most rare. To these Orders, as a most

1. See Lockington's Case, Brightly, 289; Clark v. Dick, 1 Dillon, 8; Napier, 57, 115.

valuable part of our military law and history, references have been abundantly made in the course of the following Chapters.

Principles governing Orders. As in the making of Regulations, so in the framing of Orders, the principles heretofore laid down to the effect that executive acts may not trench upon the province of legislation, or conflict with the existing constitutional or statutory law, are to be strictly observed.¹ Further, Orders should not conflict with established Regulations.² And Orders issued by commanders of departments or armies, or other military authorities inferior to the President, may not contravene the orders of the latter as Commander-in-chief.

1. II Opins. At. Gen., 230-234 ; VI Id., 15. In an Act of March 3, 1863, two designated General Orders of the War Department, relating to enlistments, were in express terms "*rescinded*" by Congress.

2. II Opins. At. Gen., 230-234 ; X Id., 17.

CHAPTER IV.

THE UNWRITTEN MILITARY LAW.

While the Military Law has derived from the Common Law certain of the principles and doctrines illustrated in its code,¹ it has also a *lex non scripta* or unwritten common law of its own. This consists of certain established principles and usages peculiar or pertaining to the military status and service, and which, though unenacted, are recognized in the 84th article of war, under the designation of "the custom of war," as a means for the guiding of courts-martial in the administration of justice in doubtful cases. The same are also recognized by the courts and legal authorities as operative and conclusive as to questions in regard to which the written military law is silent.²

This unwritten law may be said to include:—1. The "customs of the service," so called; 2. The unwritten laws and customs of war.

1. Usages or Customs of the Service. These, whether originating in tradition or in specific orders or rulings, are now, *as such*, not numerous, a large proportion having changed their form by becoming merged in written regulations embraced in the General Regulations of the Army.³ The regulations, for example, on such subjects as arrests, exchange or transfer of officers, devolution of command, furloughs, routine duties of officers and non-commissioned officers, escorts, salutes, councils of administration,

1. See I Opins. At. Gen., 233; VI Id., 204; Prendergast, 200.

2. Barwis v. Keppel, 2 Wilson, 314; Martin v. Mott, 12 Wheaton, 34; U. S. v. Macdaniel, 7 Peters, 14; U. S. v. Webster, Daveis, (2 Ware,) 42, 43, 56; I Opins. At. Gen., 699; II Id., 461; 1 Bishop, C. L., § 50; Cooley, Prins. Const. Law, 137; Prendergast, 53; Simmons, § 80; Clode, M. L., 128; O'Brien, 223; De Hart, 20; Kautz, Customs of the Service. For an *express statutory* recognition of "the usages and customs of armies," and "the custom and usage of the sea service," see c. 27, s. 8, and c. 24, s. 11, Acts of March 2, 1799.

3. Compare U. S. v. Webster, Daveis, (2 Ware,) 56; O'Brien, 223.

procedure of courts-martial,' &c., are in great part but the specific expression of usages of more or less early date, most of which have come to us from the British service.

As to the procedure of military courts. Here, however, *usage* still governs as to various important particulars. Thus reference to usage as furnishing the proper guide for the judgment of the court upon the FINDING is not unfrequently required to be made upon military trials, and especially as apposite to the question whether the facts alleged or proved constitute the military offence charged. For example,—whether an order which the accused is charged to have disobeyed was a “lawful” order; whether the accused is to be considered as having been “on duty at the time of his alleged offence; whether an officer charged to have been assaulted by a soldier was at the time “in the execution of his office;” whether certain acts amount to “conduct unbecoming an officer or a gentleman,” or to “conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline;” in what acts consist the offences of false muster, mutiny, misbehaviour before the enemy, breach of arrest, or even desertion;—as to such questions, the court in deliberating upon its judgment, (as also the commandant in passing upon the same,) will constantly recur to the general usage of the service as understood and acted upon by military men.

Usage may also be authoritative in connection with the question of the punishment to be imposed by the SENTENCE. The Articles of war and the Regulations indeed specify nearly all the *species* of punishment to which an officer or soldier may be subjected; but to determine in some cases as to the *kind*, and in most cases as to the *degree*, in amount or duration, of the proposed punishment; to decide whether the same is sanctioned by custom or is “unusual;” as also in some instances to indicate directly as to the form of the execution of the penalty,—the court (or the reviewing authority,) will not unfrequently have occasion to take into consideration the unwritten law or practice of the service.

2. Laws or Customs of War. These are the rules and principles, almost wholly unwritten, which regulate the intercourse and acts of individuals during the carrying on of war between

1. See Art. LXIII of the Regulations of 1881.

hostile nations or peoples. While properly observed by military commanders in the field, they may often also enter into the question of the due administration of justice by military courts in cases of persons charged with offences growing out of the state of war. Such laws and customs would especially be taken into consideration by *military commissions* in passing upon offences in violation of the laws of war. But courts-martial also, in time of war, may have occasion to recur to the same, upon trials of military offences peculiar to a state of war and expressly made cognizable by such courts by the Articles of war,—as, for instance, the offences of relieving an enemy, corresponding with or giving intelligence to an enemy, forcing a safeguard, and the offence of the spy.¹ And so, upon trials involving the rights or obligations of prisoners of war. In such cases the unwritten laws and customs of war, as generally understood in our armies or as defined by writers of authority, will often properly be consulted as indicating whether certain acts are to be regarded as constituting the offences charged, or what measure of punishment will be just and adequate in the event of conviction. Certain of these laws and customs will hereafter be referred to in considering particular Articles of war. In the main, however, they pertain to the separate Title of the LAWS OF WAR, the subject of PART II of this work.

Essentials of a Usage or Custom. As to what constitutes a usage or custom in law,—it is laid down by the authorities that it must consist of a uniform, known practice of long standing, which is also certain and reasonable,² and is not in conflict with existing statute or constitutional provision.³ A civil cus-

1. The original Article of war of 1806 in regard to spies provided that, on conviction, they should "suffer death according to the law and usages of nations."

2. *U. S. v. Duval*, Gilpin, 356; *Collings v. Hope*, 3 Washington, 149; *U. S. v. Buchanan*, 8 Howard, 102; *Knights of Pythias' Case*, 3 Brewst., 452; 2 Greenl. Ev., § 251; 2 Parsons, Con., 48; *Lawson on Usages and Customs*, 2-15. It must be so long-continued and notorious that all persons concerned may be presumed to have knowledge of it. *Wadley v. Davis*, 59 Barb., 503; *Saint v. Smith*, 1 Cold., 51.

3. *Thompson v. Riggs*, 5 Wallace, 680; *The Floyd Acceptances*, 7 Id., 677. "No erroneous practice of however long standing can justify the allowance of a claim" against "the true intent and meaning" of a statute. *U. S. v. Freeman*, 3 Howard, 564. Usage "arises from long

tom cannot set aside or modify the statute law,¹ or subsist in regard to any matter regulated by such law.² Moreover a prevailing usage is superseded when an enactment is made covering the subject: a usage can grow up or continue only in reference to a subject upon which the written law is silent or quite obscure. So, a usage or custom of war or of the military service, to be recognized and acted upon as such by a military court or commander, must have prevailed without variation for a long period must be well defined, equitable, and uniform in its application must not be prejudicial to military discipline, and must not only not be at variance with the statute or written law relating to the army but must pertain to a subject not provided for by such law.

recognized rights countervailed by no legislative action." *Miller v McQuerry*, 5 McLean, 472. And see authorities cited in preceding note.

1. VI Opins. At. Gen., 73. But though usage cannot alter the statute law, it may be evidence of the construction given to it. *U. S. v. Gilmore*, 8 Wallace, 330; II Opins. At. Gen., 460; III Id., 363. It may also be evidence of the intent or purport of a regulation. II Id., 560 705; VIII Id., 5. This is especially true of the usages of the executive departments of the Government. *U. S. v. Gilmore*; *U. S. v. Lytle* 5 McLean, 17; *U. S. v. Maurice*, 2 Brock, 100.

2. "Generally, a statutory enactment controls all prior usages and laws, and establishes the rule which governs the subject-matter." *U. S. v. Collier*, 3 Blatchford, 332.

3. "In order to apply it" (the custom of war) "to any particular case it must be certain and well defined, and clearly not opposed to any law or regulation." De Hart, 20. There can be "no excuse for a practice which, with whatever good intentions, is forbid by law." G. O. 1 War Dept., 1861. "Customs of service can only be taken as precedent to follow, when intrinsically proper of themselves, and supplementary of the written law and regulations, on points on which the latter are silent, and when not in direct opposition to these." G. O. 2, Dept. of Texas, 1874. (Gen. Augur.) "The evidence of a custom to disobey a General Order was rightly rejected by the court. A custom, to be a good one, must not be contrary to law, or the law governing troops but must be a general custom, a well-known custom to all the command." G. C. M. O. 2, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1865. (Gen. Butler.) And see Hough, C. M., 372, 620; G. O. 4, Dept. of La., 1866; Do. 15, First Mil. Dist., 1870. That a custom of the service must be *uniform* is held by the court in *U. S. v. Buchanan*, Crabbe, 578, where, referring to an alleged usage in regard to the emoluments of pursers in the navy, it is said:—"A usage to be binding must be uniform and applicable to all officers of the same grade under similar circumstances." In IV Opins. 18, Atty. Gen. Legaré, in allusion to a supposed usage of courts-martial in regard to adjournments, says:—"This I understand to be the uniform practice; and uniform practice is good law in such cases when it is no unreasonable and works no wrong."

A ministerial officer, (as it has been observed by a U. S. Court,¹) cannot institute a usage, but the same must be built up out of a series of precedents:² so, a custom of the service cannot be created by isolated or occasional instances,³ or by the practice of a particular command or commander, but must be a usage of the army at large or of commanders in general. An illegal or unauthorized practice, however frequent or long continued, cannot constitute a legal usage.

Custom of the Service as a Defence. It will be apparent from the foregoing that an alleged military usage cannot avail an officer or soldier charged with a military offence, to vindicate his act, except where its existence and its lawfulness are susceptible of exact proof. "Custom of the service"—it is remarked in a General Order⁴—"is a treacherous tribunal, and it is a hazardous thing for an officer to appeal to it to justify failure to obey orders or a departure from strict compliance with the articles of war." The existence in a command of an unauthorized practice, sanctioned by a commanding or superior officer, may sometimes extenuate the act of a subordinate who adopts it, but, unlike a legal custom, it cannot serve as a *defence*.⁵

1. U. S. v. Babcock, 4 McLean, 113.

2. See V Opins. At. Gen., 351.

3. U. S. v. Buchanan, 8 Howard, 102.

4. G. O. 42, Dept. of Washington, 1866. (Gen. Augur.)

5. In G. C. M. O. 1, Dept. of the Mo., 1885, the court, in connection with its sentence, observes:—"The court is of opinion that the following of an unauthorized and pernicious custom constitutes no good defence for any neglect on the part of the accused." [For "custom" the term should, strictly, have been *practice*: custom proper cannot, of course, fitly be described as "unauthorized."]

CHAPTER V.

THE COURT-MARTIAL—ITS HISTORY AND NATURE.

Having seen in what consists Military Law, we proceed to consider the tribunal by which it is mostly administered—the Court-Martial. The subject will be presented, in this and succeeding Chapters, under the following heads:—

- I. The Origin and History of the Court-Martial.
- II. Its Nature as a legal tribunal.
- III. The Constitution of General Courts-Martial.
- IV. The Composition of General Courts-Martial.
- V. The Jurisdiction of General Courts-Martial.
- VI. The Procedure of General Courts-Martial.
- VII. The Inferior Courts-Martial.

THE ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF COURTS-MARTIAL.

Early Forms—The Franco-German System. Some form of tribunal for the trial of military offenders would appear to have coexisted with the early history of armies. In those of Rome justice was commonly administered by the *magistri militum*, and especially by the legionary tribunes, either as sole judges or with the assistance of councils.¹ Among the early Germans, judicial proceedings in time of peace were conducted by the Counts assisted by assemblages of freemen; in time of war by the Duke or military chief who, as heretofore remarked, usually delegated his jurisdiction to the priests who accompanied the army and carried its banners. At a later period arose courts of regiments, held either by the colonel or by an officer invested by him with the staff or mace called the *regiment*, as the emblem of judicial authority, and to which soldiers as well

1. Bruce, Insts., 295-300; Adams, Roman Ant., 330; De Chenier, Guide des Tribunaux Militaires, Introd.; Von Molitor, Kriegsgesichte und Militärstrafen, II.

officers were eligible as members: for the trial of high commanders the King convened courts of bishops and nobles. During the Middle Ages, however, the civil and military jurisdictions were as indicated in Chapter II, but imperfectly distinguished, and it was not till a comparatively modern date that special courts administering distinctively military codes may be said to have been instituted.¹ In France, courts-martial, (*conseils de guerre*,) appear to have been first established by an ordinance of 1655, military persons having previously been subjected to the jurisdiction, successively, of the Mayor of the Palace, the Duke of Seneschal, the Constable, and the Provost Marshals.² In Germany, courts-martial proper, (*militärgerichte*,) may probably be traced back to the articles, already referred to as earliest in the Code of the Emperor Frederick III of 1487: they were specifically provided for—the remarkable “*spear*” court, (in which the assembled regiment passed judgment upon its offenders,) being especially characterized—in the penal code of Charles V, though accurately defined in the articles of Maximilian II, of 1570.³ Meanwhile, however, the Franco-German system of administration of justice, in which the courts were open, the prosecution was public and verbal, the accused was tried by a *jury* of his peers or military associates upon specific charges and was permitted to be heard in his defence, and the proof was made by the examination of witnesses,—in contradistinction to the *inquisitorial* method which was subsequently adopted,—had extended to England, Sweden and Russia, and prevailed generally throughout Europe.⁴ The courts established by the codes and articles, (heretofore specifically mentioned) of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries⁶ were courts of this system, and to such courts the present British and American court-martial is more nearly assimilated in its procedure than to the now-existing military court of Germany or France.

British Courts-Martial—*The Court of Chivalry.* In English law, the original of the modern court-martial is dis-

See Von Molitor; Ayala, de *Judiciis Militaribus*; Le Faure, *Lois militaires de la France*; De Chenier; Bruce, 300.

Le Faure, p. 141. And see Foucher, *Code de la Justice Militaire*, p. 3.

Koppmann; Von Molitor.

Von Molitor, Sec. 1 § 8.

See Chapter II.

See especially the Articles of Gustavus Adolphus, in Appendix.

covered in the "King's Court of Chivalry," or "Court of the High Constable and Marshal of England"—sometimes also designated as the "Court of Arms" or "Court of Honour"—in which the judges were the Lord High Constable and Earl Marshal. These officials, who date from the times of the Frankish-Carlovingian—Kings, are said to have formed a part of the *Assize Regis* of William the Conqueror, but it was, apparently, not till the subdivision of that tribunal into separate courts by Edward I, in the latter part of the 13th century, that the Court of Chivalry began to have a distinct existence. Thus instituted, it came to exercise an extended jurisdiction, both civil and criminal, taking cognizance not only of "all matters touching honor and arms," "pleas of life and member arising in matters of arms and deeds of war," "the rights of prisoners taken in war," and generally, of "the offences and miscarriages of soldiers contrary to the laws and rules of the army," but also of civil crimes and matters of contract.¹ Having thus indeed gradually encroached upon the other courts of common law, the Court of Chivalry was subsequently, by acts of parliament, restrained and curtailed in much of its power; and, the office of High Constable having, as a permanent judicial function, been discontinued, upon the attainder of the then Constable, in the 13th year of Henry VIII this tribunal, though at first held at intervals by the Marshal alone, fell into disuse. From a case adjudged in the Court of Queen's Bench so recently as in the 1st year of Anne,² it is seen that the Court of Chivalry, as held by the Marshal, still survived with a doubtful and trifling jurisdiction apparently rarely exercised. But, though never abolished by specific statute, it had some time before the English Revolution, practically ceased to exist as a military tribunal.³

Later history. Upon its decadence, and during the interval

1. A corresponding jurisdiction was exercised in *naval* cases by the Lord High Admiral. Thring, 5; Clode, M. L., 41.

2. *Chambers v. Sir John Jennings*, 7 Mod. 127, and 2 Salk. 553.

3. Upon the history of the Court of Chivalry, see Coke, 4 Inst. 121; Hale, Hist. Com. Law, 42; Hawk., P. C., b. 2, c. 4; 3 Black. Com. 68; 4 Stephen, Com. 329; Boyer, Com. Const. Law, 281; 2 Grose, 58-60; Tytler, 38-42, 46, 377-392; Abye, 1-12; 2 McArthur, 15-20; Piper & Col., 7-9; Clode, M. L., 83, 158; Id., 1 M. F., 76, 473; Pratt, 1; Lieber, Observations on origin of military trials, &c., N. York, 1871; *Chambers v. Jennings*, ante; *Ex-parte Reed*, 100 U. S., 20.

preceding the first Mutiny Act, justice was administered, in the military forces from time to time raised, mostly by martial courts or councils held under the ordinances or articles heretofore noticed,¹ or assembled by special commission issued under the royal prerogative, or what was arbitrarily assumed to be such.* During the reigns especially of the Tudors and Stuarts, and prior to the Petition of Right, military law, as administered, more nearly resembled the martial law than the military law of modern times; trials of civilians by courts-martial, and the imposition by the same of the death penalty, being sanctioned in cases in which the law of the land did not authorize such jurisdiction or punishment.³ It was such arbitrary exercise of military authority which was probably had in view by Hale⁴ and Blackstone⁵ in their apparent confounding of military with martial law much to the disparagement of the former.

At length, by the original Mutiny Act of 1689, already described, the infliction of the death penalty within the Kingdom was prohibited except upon conviction of mutiny, sedition, or desertion, and the Sovereign, (for the first time by legislative authority,) was expressly empowered to grant commissions to convene courts-martial, whose jurisdiction and powers, extended and developed in subsequent Mutiny Acts and Articles of War, have finally—as has been seen in Chapter II—been established and defined in the Army Act of 1881. These powers, as compared with those of our own military courts, will be frequently referred to in the course of this treatise.

The American Court-Martial. The English military tribunal, transplanted to this country prior to our Revolution, was

1. See Chapter II.

2. Grant v. Gould, 2 H. Black. 69, 84; Tytler, 48-58; Adyc, 13-15; McArthur, 20; Kennedy, 1; Pipon & Col., 9-12, 17-18; Pratt, 7.

3. 1 Black. Com., 414; Hallam, Const. Hist., vol. 1, pp. 325-330, 531; Manual, 7-8, cited in Ch. II, note. Col. Woodward's Essay on Mil. & Mar. Law, United Service Mag., Oct., 1879.

4. Hist., Com. Law, c. 2.

5. "Martial law, which is built upon no settled principles, but is entirely arbitrary in its decisions, is, as Sir Matthew Hale observes, in truth and reality no law, but something indulged rather than allowed as a law. The necessity of order and discipline in an army is the only thing which can give it countenance." 1 Black. Com., 413. And see VIII Opins. At. Gen., 365-6; also PART II—MARTIAL LAW.

recognized and adopted by the Continental Congress, in the first American Articles of war of 1775, where the different courts-martial,—general, regimental, and detachment or garrison courts,—were distinguished, and their composition and jurisdiction defined. These provisions were modified and enlarged in the succeeding Articles of 1776 and 1786, and in the latter the authority to order general courts was more precisely indicated. Coming to the period of the Constitution—that instrument, while expressly empowering Congress to provide for the government of the army, and thus to institute courts-martial,¹ also recognized in the Vth Amendment—the distinction between civil offenses and those cognizable by a military forum.² But, in legislation in view of these provisions, Congress did not originally create the court-martial, but, by the operation of the Act of Sept. 2, 1789,³ continued it in existence as previously established. Thus as already indicated, this court is perceived to be in fact older than the Constitution,⁴ and therefore older than any court of the United States instituted or authorized by that instrument.

The revised code of Articles of war soon after enacted, *viz.* by the Act of April 10, 1806, repeated the provisions of 1786 in regard to courts-martial, with some slight modifications consisting mainly in extending the authority to convene general courts and in substituting the President for Congress in the cases in which the latter had previously been vested with final revisory authority.

These earlier codes, as also the later Articles, have been considered in Chapter II, and are set forth in the Appendix.

Between 1806 and 1874, a fourth court-martial—the field officer's court, authorized however only in time of war—was added to those previously established; the authority to order general courts was still further extended, and their jurisdiction and

1. See *Dynes v. Hoover*, 20 Howard, 79; *Ex parte Reed*, 100 U. S. 21; *Ex parte Biggers*, 1 McM. 69; V Opins. At. Gen. 508.

2. *Ex parte Mason*, 105 U. S., 700; *Ex parte Milligan*, 4 Wallace 123, 137, 138; *In re Bogart*, 2 Sawyer, 396; *Trask v. Payne*, 43 Barb. 569; *In matter of Martin*, 45 Id., 142; *People v. Daniell*, 6 Lansing, 49; *Rawson v. Brown*, 18 Maine, 216; *Rawle*, Const., 220; *Whiting*, Wa Powers, 553; VI Opins. At. Gen., 425; *Opin., Id.*, Mch. 15, 1882, (*Gen Porter's Case.*)

3. Providing that the Army should continue to be governed by the existing articles of war.

4. See *Rawson v. Brown* and *People v. Daniell*, above cited.

powers were enlarged. The legislation by which these changes were introduced has been heretofore indicated as embraced in the code of Articles contained in the Revised Statutes of June 22, 1874. These Articles, with some few subsequent enactments—of which the principal are the provision making accused persons competent as witnesses,¹ and that authorizing generals commanding Divisions and colonels commanding Departments to order general courts²—comprise the *existing statute law* in regard to the constitution, composition, jurisdiction, powers and procedure of American courts-martial. The *regulations* and *usages* relating to their forms and practice have already been referred to.

THE NATURE OF THE COURT-MARTIAL AS A LEGAL TRIBUNAL.

Its Authorization in the Constitution. By Art. I, sec. 8, of the Constitution, Congress, as we have seen, is invested with the power to *govern* the army, as well as the militia when employed in the public service, and is further authorized to make all laws which may be necessary and proper to carry such powers into execution. Under these powers Congress has from time to time enacted articles of war and other laws specifically providing for the institution of courts-martial.

The Vth Amendment of the Constitution, heretofore cited, which in effect provides that persons charged with crimes shall be proceeded against by indictment, &c., except in military or naval cases, has also sometimes been viewed as a source of authority for courts-martial. Thus Atty. Gen. Cushing³ observes of it that it “expressly excepts the trial of cases arising in the land or naval service from the ordinary provisions of law.” And in the case, adjudged in New York, of *Trask v. Payne*,⁴ the court say:—“This provision practically withdraws the entire category of military offences from the cognizance of the civil magistrate and turns over the whole subject to be dealt with by the military tribunals.” In the view of the author, the Amendment, in the particular indicated, is rather a *declaratory recognition and sanc-*

1. Act of March 16, 1878, c. 37.

2. Act of July 5, 1884, c. 224.

3. VI Opins., 425.

4. 43 Barb. 569. And see *Ex Parte Mason*, 105 U. S., 700.

tion of an existing military jurisdiction than an original provision initiating such a jurisdiction.¹

A further authority for the creation of courts-martial has been held to be attached to the constitutional function of the President as Commander-in-chief, independently of legislation—will be pointed out in the next Chapter.

Not a Part of the Judiciary but an Agency of the Executive Department. Courts-martial of the United States, although their legal sanction is no less than that of the federal courts, being equally with these authorized by the Constitution, are, unlike these, not a portion of the Judiciary of the United States, and are thus not included among the "inferior" courts which Congress "may from time to time ordain and establish." In the leading case on this subject, the Supreme Court, referring to the provisions of the Constitution authorizing Congress to provide for the government of the army, excepting military offences from the civil jurisdiction, and making the President commander-in-chief, observes as follows:—"These provisions show that Congress has the power to provide for the trial and punishment of military and naval offences in the manner then and now practised by civilized nations, and that the power so given is without any connection between it and the 3d article of the Constitution defining the judicial power of the United States, insofar that the two powers are entirely independent of each other."²

Not belonging to the judicial branch of the Government, it follows that courts-martial must pertain to the executive depart-

¹ See *Quirk v. U. S.*, 10 Ct. Cl. 421, and the court say of this American case, "it is an express constitutional affirmation and preservation of the military right to administration of military justice through military tribunals without the agency of grand juries." And compare with a similar provision in the State Constitution, *People v. Daniel*, 1 N. Y. 172.

² *Ex parte Milligan*, 12 Wheat. 213, 39 Am. Dec. 213, and see *La Paro v. Brigadier General*, 100 U. S. 102, 34 Ct. Cl. 388, 11 Blatchford, 185; *People v. Daniel*, 1 N. Y. 172, 38 Am. Dec. 213, 10 N. Y. 2d 100, 32 Am. Dec. 213; *Ex parte Milligan*, 12 Wheat. 213, 39 Am. Dec. 213, where it is remarked by Justice Miller, the author of the opinion, "the military commission, though it may thus be authorized to examine, to arrest and sentence," is "authorized in the sense in which military power is granted to the commander of the United States." Compare *Ex parte Johnston*, 10 Brig. Gen. 212, 100 U. S. 102.

ment; and they are in fact simply *instrumentalities of the executive power*, provided by Congress for the President as Commander-in-chief, to aid him in properly commanding the army and navy and enforcing discipline therein,¹ and utilized under his orders or those of his authorized military representatives.

A Temporary Summary Tribunal—not a Court of Record. As a purely executive agency designed for military uses, called into existence by a military order and by a similar order dissolved when its purpose is accomplished,² the court-martial, as compared with the civil tribunals, is transient in its duration and summary in its action.³ Unlike the superior courts of record,⁴ it has no fixed place of session, no permanent office or clerk, no inherent authority to punish for contempt, no power to issue a writ or judicial mandate, and its judgment is simply a recommendation not operative till approved by a revisory commander. It thus belongs to the class of minor courts of special and limited jurisdiction and scope, whose competency cannot be stretched by implication, in favor of whose acts no intendment can be made where their legality does not clearly appear, and which cannot transcend their authority without rendering their members trespassers and amenable to civil action.⁵ But their proceedings, where no illegality is exhibited upon their face, will in general be presumed to be regular and valid.

1. Clode, 2 M. F., 361, says of these courts in the British law:—"It must never be lost sight of that the only legitimate object of military tribunals is to aid the Crown to maintain the discipline and government of the Army." And see *Id.*, M. L., 91; Prendergast, 148.

2. *Mills v. Martin*, 19 Johns. 33; *Brooks v. Adams*, 11 Pick. 442; *Brooks v. Daniels*, 22 Pick. 501; In the matter of Wright, 34 How. Pr. 211; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 470. "These courts are not permanent, but created *pro hac vice*, i. e. for the trial of the particular offender." Clode, M. L., 58.

3. "The discipline necessary to the efficiency of the army and navy required other and swifter modes of trial than are furnished by the common-law courts." *Ex parte Milligan*, 4 Wallace, 123. In *Coleman v. Tennessee*, 97 U. S., 513, the Court refer to the "swift and summary justice of a military court."

Compare the more permanent "Military Courts" established by Act of the Confederate States Congress, of Oct. 9, 1862, as given, with amendments, in Appendix, XV.

4. See *post*, p. 709 and note.

5. Upon the subject of the amenability of officers or soldiers to civil suit or prosecution, see Part III.

Not Subject to Judicial Revision. Further, the court-martial being no part of the Judiciary of the nation, and no statute having placed it in legal relations therewith, its proceedings are not subject to be directly reviewed by any federal court, either by *certiorari*, writ of error, or otherwise,¹ nor are its judgments or sentences subject to be appealed from to such tribunal. It is not only the highest but the only court by which a case of a military offence can be heard and determined; and a civil or criminal court of the United States has no more appellate jurisdiction over offences tried by a court-martial—no more authority to entertain a rehearing of a case tried by it, or to affirm or reverse its finding or sentence as such—than has a court of a foreign nation. In *Dynes v. Hoover*, above cited, this principle is well illustrated by the Court in the declaration that a duly-confirmed sentence of a court-martial “is altogether beyond the jurisdiction or inquiry of any civil tribunal whatever”; and further that with the legal sentences of competent courts-martial “civil courts have nothing to do, nor are they in any way alterable by them. If it were otherwise”—it is added—“the civil courts would virtually administer the rules and articles of war irrespective of those to whom that duty and obligation has been confided by the laws of the United States, from whose decisions no appeal or jurisdiction of any kind has been given to the civil magistrate or civil courts.”²

1. As to the incidental revision upon *habeas corpus*, see *post*.

2. 20 Howard, 81, 82. And see also *Ex parte Reed*, 100 U. S., 13 23; *Ex parte Vallandigham*, 1 Wallace, 243; *Moore v. Houston*, 3 S. & R., 197; *State v. Davis*, 1 South. 311; *Ex parte Dunbar*, 14 Mass 393; *Tyler v. Pomeroy*, 8 Allen, 484; *State v. Stevens*, 2 McCord, 38 *Ex parte Bright*, 1 Utah, 148, 153; *Whiting, War Powers*, 278; *Cooley Prins. Const. Law*, 113; XII Opins. At. Gen., 332; *Maltby*, 151; *DIGEST*, 200.

In a few of the States the proceedings of *militia* courts-martial have been held to be subject to review by the civil courts of appeal. *State v. Davis*; *Washburn v. Phillips*, 2 Met. 296. But in the case of the Contested Election of Brig. Gen., 1 Strob. 198, the incongruity of a review of the proceedings of a court-martial by means of a writ of *certiorari* issued by a civil court is well illustrated as follows. After remarking that *certiorari* only lies to remove judicial acts, the court holds:—“The proceedings and sentences of courts military can hardly be considered judicial acts. * * * The very fact that the sentence of the court is not known until approved, then that the court is dissolved, and that the whole proceedings are in the possession of the officer ordering the court, show that the writ of *certiorari* cannot be awarded. For there is no one to whom it can go, and who can, as of and for the court certify the proceedings. But that the Court of Sessions,” (the civil

In the recent case of *Wales v. Whitney*,¹ a proceeding instituted against the Secretary of the Navy for the discharge on *habeas corpus* of an officer of the navy, the Supreme Court of the United States, in holding that no federal tribunal "has any appellate jurisdiction over the naval court-martial nor over offences which such a court has power to try," adds that no such tribunal "is authorized to interfere with" a court-martial "in the performance of its duty by way of a writ of prohibition² or any order of that nature."

Prohibition and Certiorari in England. In England, indeed, where all courts derive their original authority from the Sovereign as the "fountain of justice,"³ and a relation, unknown to our law, exists between civil and military tribunals, a power to review the proceedings and sentences of courts-martial appears to have been at one time specifically recognized by the Mutiny Act as possessed by the superior courts of common law.⁴ No such provision, however, was contained in the later Acts, and none such is to be found in the present statute law. But, independently of statute, it has been held that writs of *prohibition* and of *certiorari* may legally issue out of the High Court of Justice to courts-martial; *prohibition*, to forbid the court to proceed on the ground that it is without authority or jurisdiction; and *certiorari* to require it to certify up the record with a view to the quashing of conviction or sentence if found illegal.⁵ It was also held,

court applied to for the writ,) "has no right to pronounce a *military judgment* upon the proceedings being up, is itself conclusive against the writ." But see the late case of *Ex parte Thompson*, 2 Quebec L. R., 115.

1. 114 U. S., 564.

2. A writ of prohibition, (which is a means resorted to to prevent the doing of an act not yet performed or completed—U. S. v. Hoffman, 4 Wallace, 158,) has never been granted in a military case in this country; nor is one known ever to have been applied for in any case pending for trial before a military or naval court-martial prior to the very recent case of Paymaster General Smith, U. S. N., in which, in view of the ruling of the U. S. Supreme Court in *Wales v. Whitney*, the writ was refused by the Supreme Court of the Dist. of Columbia, Sept. 25, 1885.

Under Sec. 688, Rev. Sts., the U. S. Supreme Court has power to issue the writ of prohibition only in cases of admiralty pending in the U. S. Dist. Court. *Ex parte Christy*, 3 Howard, 322; *Ex parte Gordon*, 1 Black, 503.

3. 1 Black. Com., 266; 2 Stephen, Com., 538; Broom, Const. Law, 145.

4. Tytler, 167; 1 Opins. At. Gen., 236.

5. Manual, 151, 153; *Grant v. Gould*, 2 H. Black. 69; *In re Mansergh*, 1 Best & Smith, 400; Clode, M. L., 158.

however, that the former writ would not be granted on account merely of irregularities or informalities in the proceedings of the court-martial, or of an erroneous decision on the merits,¹ or after the sentence had been executed, or because the sentence was excessive;² and that *certiorari* was a proper remedy only when the rights of the party affected by the judgment of the court-martial were *civil* rights, and the court had acted without jurisdiction,—that the writ would not issue where the rights affected were of a military character, *i. e.* such as are attached to military rank or status.³ And it is a noticeable fact that the British courts have never granted *either* of these writs in a case tried on trial by court-martial.

In fact the only *court of appeal* from the judgments of courts-martial, in the British practice, may be said to be the Judge Advocate General.⁴ So, with us, an Accused has always an appeal, from a conviction and sentence by court-martial, to the President, (or Secretary of War,) who, in entertaining and determining such appeal, is assisted and advised by the Judge Advocate General of the Army.⁵

Revision collaterally, by Habeas Corpus, &c. While courts-martial, not being “inferior courts” to the Supreme Court under the Constitution, cannot be appealed from to any civil court or controlled or directed by the decree or mandate of such a court yet in our U. S. Courts, similarly as in the English tribunals, the writ of *habeas corpus* may be availed of by a prisoner claiming to be illegally detained under trial or sentence of court-martial, and in this proceeding the legality of the action of the court—as whether it was legally constituted, or had jurisdiction, or its sentence was authorized by the code—may be inquired into. But the

1. *Grant v. Gould, ante.*

2. *In re Poe*, 5 Barn. & Adol. 681; Prendergast, 202. In the more recent (Irish) case of *Sergt. McCarthy*, 14 W. R. 918, it was held that “a prohibition will not issue merely because the evidence given in support of a military charge discloses a higher civil offence.”

3. *In re Mansergh, ante*; *Capt. Roberts' Case*, Manual, 154.

4. “The Judge Advocate General’s Department forms a Court of Appeal, and therefore takes no part in the actual preparation, conduct, or management of prosecutions.” Jones, (1881,) p. 63. “The Judge Advocate General and his Deputy form a sort of *final court*, which has the power of upsetting, or “quashing,” all court-martial proceedings.” Gorham, (1880,) p. 37.

5. See *Wales v. Whitney*, 114 U. S., 575.

action must have been absolutely illegal and void in law to induce the federal court¹ to grant relief,² for a civil tribunal will not go into the merits of, or try, a military cause.³ So, in a case before the Court of Claims,⁴ or an ordinary civil court, where the right to recover pay, &c., depends upon the legality of the proceedings of a court-martial, the question whether the court has transcended its authority may be passed upon. So, such question may be tried in an action for damages for false imprisonment under sentence.⁵ But these *collateral* methods of reviewing the action of military courts have not been frequent in practice, since it is well established that the civil judicature will not interfere in any case in which the court, however irregular may have been its proceedings, has acted or is acting within its legal powers and discretion.⁶

It may be noted that the law is similarly held by the authorities in the kindred class of cases in which the petitioner for the writ has not yet been tried or arraigned but is detained in military custody with a view to trial. If the person and the offence are within

1. It need hardly be observed that a *State* court could have no jurisdiction in such a class of cases. See PART III.

2. In *Ex parte* Mason, 105 U. S., 697, the Supreme Court, in holding that it "has no power to review the judgments of courts-martial," adds that it cannot, upon *habeas corpus*, discharge a person under sentence of court-martial, "if the court had jurisdiction to try the offender for the offence with which he was charged, and the sentence was one which the court could, under the law, pronounce." In *Ex parte* Reed, 100 U. S. 23, the same court well say:—"A writ of *habeas corpus* cannot be made to perform the functions of a writ of error. To warrant the discharge of the petitioner, the sentence under which he is held must be not merely erroneous and voidable but absolutely void." And see *Ex parte* Parks, 93 U. S., 18; *Bennett v. Hopkins*, 2 McCrary, 129; *King v. Suddis*, 1 East, 306. In *Wales v. Whitney*, 114 U. S., 575, it is remarked that, even where the court-martial had in fact no jurisdiction, the power of the civil tribunal, on *habeas corpus*, "extends no further than to release the prisoner. It cannot remit a fine, or restore to an office, or reverse the judgment of the military court." But it is further held in this case that an officer merely in arrest at large, *i. e.* under an arrest confining him to the limits of the City of Washington, was not under such physical restraint as to be a subject of discharge on *habeas corpus*.

3. In the matter of Corbett, 9 Benedict, 277.

4. See *Keyes v. U. S.*, 15 Ct. Cl., 553; *Wales v. Whitney*, 114 U. S., 575.

5. See PART III; also *Wales v. Whitney*, *ante*.

6. *Barrett v. Crane*, 16 Vt. 246; *Brown v. Wadsworth*, 15 Id., 170; *Keyes v. U. S.*, 109 U. S., 336.

the jurisdiction of the proposed court-martial, the civil federal court will not enter into the merits of the charge, but will leave same to be tried by the military tribunal and remand the prisoner.

Conclusiveness of its Judgments. Not being subject to be reversed or appealed from, the judgment of a court-martial in the United States is, within its scope, absolutely final and conclusive.¹ Its sentence, if *per se* legal, cannot, after it has received the necessary official approval, be revoked or set aside; and only by the exercise of the pardoning power that it can—if as yet executed—be rendered in whole or in part inoperative.

A Court of Law and Justice. Notwithstanding that a court-martial is only an instrumentality of the executive power, having no relation or connection, in law, with the judicial establishments of the country, it is yet, within its field of action, fully a court of law and justice as is any civil tribunal.⁴ As a court of law, it is bound, like any court, by the fundamental principles of law, and, in the absence of special provision on the subject in the military code, it observes in general the rules of evidence as adopted in the common-law courts.⁵ As a court of justice, it is required, by the terms of its oath, to adjudicate between the United States and the accused "without partiality, favor, or affection," and according, not only to the laws and customs of the service, but to its "conscience,"⁶ *i. e.* its sense of substantial right and justice unaffected by technicalities.

1. *In re* Bogart, 2 Sawyer, 396; *In re* White, 8 Id., 49; *In re* McVey, U. S. Dist. Ct., Cal., April, 1885.

2. *Warden v. Bailey*, 4 Taunt. 76; *Frear v. Marshall*, 4 F. & F. 13; *Dynes v. Hoover*, 20 Howard, 83; *Ex parte* Reed, 10 Otto, 13; *In re* Bogart, 2 Sawyer, 396; *Moore v. Houston*, 3 S. & R. 197; *Brown v. Wadsworth*, 15 Vt. 170; *People v. Van Allen*, 55 N. Y. 36; *Stevens v. McCord*, 38; *Ex parte* Bright, 1 Utah, 145; *Porret's Case*, 419; XI Opins. At. Gen., 139; Opin. Id., March 15, 1882, (Porter's Case.) "Within the sphere of their jurisdiction the judgments and sentences of courts-martial are as final and conclusive as those of the civil tribunals of last resort." Hoffman J., in *In re* McVey, U. S. Dist. Ct., Cal., April, 1885.

3. See DIGEST, 237, 389-390, 439, 453. This subject is further illustrated in Chapter XXV—"NINETY-NINTH ARTICLE."

4. XI Opins. At. Gen., 138, 139. And see the other authorities above cited.

5. See Chapter XVIII—EVIDENCE.

6. See the 84th Article of war.

A Court of Honor. A court-martial has been called a "court of honor," and this designation, though less employed than formerly, is still applicable to it for the reason that it punishes dishonorable conduct where the same affects the reputation or discipline of the army. It may try an officer for not being also a gentleman—a dereliction not cognizable by any other species of tribunal. But though in this a court of *honor*, it is at the same time a court of *law*, since it proceeds against such conduct as an offence to be charged and proved according to the rules of criminal pleading and evidence.

As assimilated to a Civil Judge and Jury. As illustrating the function of a court-martial to administer law and justice, it may be noted that this court, though an "exceptional forum,"¹ is not without close analogies in its *personnel* to the ordinary civil tribunals. Thus it has frequently been compared, as to some of its powers and proceedings, to a *judge*, and as to others to a *jury*.² Indeed, in its taking of a statutory oath, its being subject to challenge, its hearing and weighing of evidence, its finding of guilt or innocence, and its liability to be reassembled to reconsider its verdict, it nearly resembles a traverse jury in a criminal court. On the other hand, in its arraignment of the accused, its entertaining of objections to its own jurisdiction as well as to the sufficiency of the pleadings and the competency of the testimony, its authority to grant continuances and to adjourn, and its power to impose sentence, it is more closely assimilated to the judge. The further comparison by Atty. Gen. Cushing³ of a court-martial to a "*grand jury*," in that its members are "changeable in numbers and personality within certain limits," is a much less obvious analogy.

A Criminal Court. In regard to the class of courts to which it belongs, it is lastly to be noted that the court-martial is strictly a criminal court.⁴ It has in fact no civil jurisdiction whatever; cannot enforce a contract, collect a debt, or award damages in

1. VI Opins. At. Gen., 204.

2. Sullivan, 17; Adye, 167; Tytler, 221; 1 McArthur, 274; Delafons, 121; Hough, 944; Simmons, § 637; Griffiths, 168; Harcourt, 128; McNaghten, 117, 122, 124, 127; Bombay R., 30; Macomb, 31; III Opins. At. Gen., 398; V Id., 707; VI Id., 206; VII Id., 340; X Id., 65.

3. VII Opins., 340.

4. DIGEST, 207; U. S. v. Clarke, 96 U. S. 40.

favor of an individual. All fines and forfeitures which it decrees accrue to the United States. Even where it tries and convicts an accused for an offence involved in an obligation incurred by injury done to another person, whether a military person or civilian—as in the case of an officer guilty of dishonorable conduct in the non-payment of private debts, or in that of a soldier who has stolen from a comrade or trespassed upon a citizen—it cannot adjudge that the debt be paid, that the property be returned, or that its pecuniary value or the amount of the damage be made good to the party aggrieved. Its judgment is a criminal sentence, not a civil verdict: its proper function is to award *punishment* upon the ascertainment of guilt.¹

The nature and characteristics of the Court-Martial will be abundantly illustrated as we proceed with the details of its power and practice.

1. DIGEST, 207, 271; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 469, 471, 476; Warden v. Bailey, 4 Taunt. 78.

CHAPTER VI.

THE CONSTITUTION OF GENERAL COURTS-MARTIAL.

The law authorizing and relating to the constituting of general courts-martial—the subject of the constituting, &c., of *inferior* courts will be considered hereafter—is contained in the provision of the Constitution making the President the Commander-in-chief of the Army, in the Seventy-Second and Seventy-Third Articles of war, and in Secs. 1230 and 1326 of the Revised Statutes. By this law the authority to constitute these courts is vested in—I, The President; II, Certain military commanders.

I. AUTHORITY OF THE PRESIDENT TO CONSTITUTE GENERAL COURTS-MARTIAL.

The President is empowered to institute courts-martial—1st., as Commander-in-chief under the Constitution; 2d, in the special contingency indicated in the 72d Article; 3d, in the particular cases provided for by Sec. 1230, Rev. Sts.

1. **As Commander-in-Chief.** The Articles of war, unlike those for the government of the navy,¹ do not expressly designate the President as one of the officials invested with a general authority to order general courts-martial, but declare, in Art. 72,² that the same may be convened by certain military commanders,

1. See Rev. Sts., Sec. 1624, Art. 38.

2. This Article, as amended by the recent Act of July 5, 1884, is as follows:—"ART. 72. *Any general officer commanding an army, a Territorial Division or a Department, or colonel commanding a separate Department, may appoint general courts-martial whenever necessary. But when any such commander is the accuser or prosecutor of any officer under his command the court shall be appointed by the President; and its proceedings and sentence shall be sent directly to the Secretary of War, by whom they shall be laid before the President, for his approval or orders in the case.*"

except in a certain specified contingency, (hereafter to be defined,) when—it is provided—the court shall be ordered by the President. And it has been argued, on the principle—assumed to be applicable—of *expressio unius exclusio alterius*, that the President was thus legally empowered to exercise the authority in question only in the cases embraced in the exception.

But as the law is now generally held, and in the opinion of the author, the President is invested with a general and discretionary power to order courts-martial for the army, *by virtue of his constitutional capacity as Commander-in-chief, irrespectively and independently of any article of war or other legislation of Congress*. In this view the 72d Article is construed simply as an enabling statute, indicating what military commanders “may,” for the purposes of discipline, (and to relieve, while representing the Commander-in-chief,) “appoint” such courts; the exception expressed in the second clause being regarded as a recognition of and reference to the President, as the source of military command, for the purposes of the exercise by him in person of the authority in a particular class of cases where his subordinates cannot justly or properly act.

Original authority of British sovereign to convene courts-martial. By the common and statute law of Great Britain down to the period of the first Mutiny Act, the King was vested with the supreme command and government of the army, a function which necessarily included the power to constitute courts-martial.¹ Nor, in the author's opinion, was this power exercised from an early period, divested by the Mutiny Act of

1. The amended Article has been recurred to the form of expression employed in the code of 1806. The form in the Article of 1874, before the amendment, was—“shall be competent to appoint.” It may be observed that the antiquated term *appoint*, still retained in the Article is not often used in practice; such equivalent forms as order, convene, assemble, detail and constitute being employed, indifferently, instead.

² See Samuel, 34, 53, 55, 64, 65, 134. The extent of this power, as understood at the time, appears from the well-known statute of 13 & 14 Car. 2, “passed,” in the words of an English writer, (*Law Mag.*, vol. XIV., 1815, p. 4.) “for settling all disputes on this important subject, of which the preamble runs as follows:—“Forasmuch as within all his majesty's realms and dominions, the sole and supreme power, government, command, and disposition of the militia, and of all the forces both by sea and land, and of all forts and places of strength, is and by the law of England ever was, the undoubted right of his majesty and his pred-

1689.¹ This Act did not assume in terms to authorize the Crown to convene military courts in general, but, in view of the emergency which had induced its enactment, while condemning the exercise of martial law and the arbitrary infliction of the penalty of death, it made special provision for the assembling of such courts by "their Majestyes", &c., for the trial, within the Kingdom, and punishment capitally if found necessary, of three offences of particular gravity, which, in time of peace at least, in the absence of such provision, would legally have been punishable, or punishable with death, within the realm, only by the civil courts.² That the Act was not intended to impair, and in fact left intact, the original function of the Sovereign to order courts-martial for the trial of military offences seems to be the soundest conclusion, and such is apparently the conclusion of Samuel,³ the principal of the earlier, and Clode,⁴ the most recent, of the commentators on the Mutiny Act. That this is the proper view is confirmed by the consideration that in the larger measure of its exercise, *viz.* in respect to the constituting of courts-martial outside the Kingdom, and for the trial of offences other than mutiny, sedition, and desertion within the Kingdom, this branch of the prerogative remained for a long period acquiesced in and acknowledged by the Legislature.⁵ Later Acts which recited that it "shall be lawful" for the Sovereign to institute courts-martial generally, should, it is believed, properly be regarded as mainly of a *declaratory* effect.⁶

cessors, kings and queens of England; and that both, or either, of the houses of parliament cannot and ought not to pretend to the same," &c. This prerogative, observes Samuel, (writing in 1816,) is "as complete at this day as in precedent times;" and, as illustrating the same, he declares that—"as connected with the fulness of the kingly authority over the military state, to the Crown it has always belonged to make laws or ordinances for the economy, discipline and government of the army, and to appoint and erect tribunals for the administration and enforcement of them throughout the same." (pp. 53, 162.)

1. See Samuel, 162, 163.

2. See Clode, M. L., 19, 91.

3. Page 163.

4. M. L., 91, 92. On my reading this passage to Mr. Clode in person, he assured me that I had not misapprehended his view.

5. See Simmons § 2; Clode, M. L., 21; Samuel, 203.

6. The provision of the existing British "Army Act," in regard to the authority to convene general courts-martial, *viz.*—"A general court-martial shall be convened by Her Majesty, or some officer deriving authority immediately or mediately from Her Majesty."—certainly seems to be declaratory of a prerogative of the Crown in this particular.

Law and practice as to the exercise of the authority by the President. In this country, prior to the adoption of the Constitution, Congress, which exercised the entire power of the government, executive as well as legislative, while itself expressly directing the institution of courts-martial in some cases,¹ in general devolved the authority for this purpose upon the commander-in-chief of the army and the generals commanding in the separate States. To the *latter* this authority was expressly delegated by Congress, by resolution of April 14, 1777,² but it is noticeable that the authority, as ascribed to, and exercised by the *commander-in-chief*, rested upon no express grant but was apparently derived mainly by implication from the terms of Washington's commission by which he was vested with 'full power and authority to act as he should think fit for the good and welfare of the service,' and enjoined to cause "strict discipline and order to be observed in the army."³ Considerably later, in the Articles of 1786, the authority was in terms vested in "the general or officer commanding the troops."

Upon the adoption of the Constitution and the division of the powers of the government, the executive power, previously exercised by Congress, was transferred to the President, and with it the function of commander-in-chief. This function was not defined by the Constitution. To it therefore were properly to be regarded as attached, (with such modifications as the new form of the government required,) the powers originally vested in Congress and delegated by it as above indicated to the com-

1. See 1 Jour. Cong., 329, 427; 3 Id., 244, 686.

2. The codes of articles of 1775 and 1776, though conferring, respectively, upon "the general or commander-in-chief" the power to pardon or mitigate punishments, and the power to act upon sentences, omitted to make provision for the *convening* of general courts.

3. The commission in full, as "agreed to," by Congress, is given in 1 Jour., 85. That the powers here conferred were regarded as including authority to order military courts is evident from a letter from Washington to Maj. Gen. Gates, of Feb. 14, 1778, (Sparks' Writings of Washington, vol. 5, p. 236,) in which, in expressing the opinion that the power of appointing such courts was "too limited," he observes—"I do not find it can legally be exercised by any officer except the commander-in-chief or the commanding general in any particular State." The subsequent resolution of Congress, of April 10, 1782, (4 Journals, 82) "That the Secretary of War shall, in the absence of the commander-in-chief, be empowered to order the holding of general courts-martial in the places where Congress may be assembled"—is a legislative recognition of the existence of the power in the commander.

mander-in-chief of its army, and which had been exercised by the latter up to this period. Among these powers was the authority, properly incident to chief command, of issuing to subordinates and the army at large such *orders* as a due consideration for military discipline might require, and, among these, orders directing officers to assemble and investigate cases of misconduct and recommend punishments therefor—in other words orders constituting courts-martial. The Constitution had indeed vested in the new Congress the power to legislate for the regulation and government of the army, but this provision could not rightly be regarded as *per se* militating against the exercise of an authority properly inhering in a function devolved by the same instrument upon the Executive, and which had been attached to that function by the previously-existing law and usage.¹

That the right of the Commander-in-chief to exercise this power was not seriously questioned would appear from the practice of the early Presidents by whom it was exercised in most important cases.² Subsequent Presidents employed the same authority from time to time, both in peace and in war,³ and during the late civil war it was repeatedly resorted to and in conspicuous instances.⁴

Meanwhile, indeed, the provision of 1830, now incorporated in the second clause of the 72d Article, had specially devolved it upon the President to appoint the court whenever the military commander, otherwise competent for the purpose, should happen to be the "accuser or prosecutor" of the officer to be tried; but the authority of the President to order such courts, generally and at discretion, as *commander-in-chief*, continued to be exercised irrespective of such provision. Otherwise indeed it would have resulted that many officers and soldiers, not under the command of a "department" or "army" commander, including general officers, certain officers of the general staff, cadets of the Military Academy, and sundry enlisted men of the Engineer Battalion, or Ordnance or Signal corps, or acting as clerks in the War Depart-

1. Among the principal cases in which the courts were ordered by Washington as Commander-in-chief, were those of Gens. Arnold, Lee, Schuyler and St. Clair, Cols. Graham and Zedwitz, and Lt. Col. Enos.

2. As in those of Brig. Gen. Hull and Maj. Gens. Wilkinson and Gaines, tried in 1813-1816.

3. As in the cases of Gens. Talcott and Twiggs, Col. Sumner, Lt. Col. Montgomery, and Majors Crittenden and Cross.

4. As in the cases of Brig. Gens. Hammond, Gordon and Paine.

ment, would, prior to 1874, (or, in the case of the cadets, 1873, have remained exempt from amenability to military justice, to the serious prejudice of discipline.

The enactments of 1873 and 1874, enabling the Superintendent of the Military Academy and the General of the Army to convene general courts, have reduced in number the occasion for the exercise of this power by the Commander-in-chief, but the same is still asserted in proper cases and has been resorted to in recent important instances.¹

The authority in question, however, does not rest wholly upon executive practice and precedent. In the leading case of Major Runkle, where the point was specifically raised, it was held by Judge Advocate General Holt in 1872 that the convening of the court by the President in his capacity of commander-in-chief was a legal act;² and this opinion, adopted by the Secretary of War at the time, has subsequently been sustained by the Attorney General³ and also by the Judiciary Committee of the Senate in a report on the same case in 1879.⁴ A similar conclusion had previously been arrived at by the Military Committee of the House of Representatives in Lt. Col. Woolley's Case in 1832,⁵ and had also been expressed by Maltby,⁶ Macomb⁷ and De Hart,⁸ in their treatises. Later writers on military law have adopted the same view,⁹ and the same was also declared by distinguished department and army commanders in Orders, during the late war.¹⁰

1. As in those of Cadet J. C. Whitaker, (Dec. 1880;) Major J. H. Taylor, (Aug. 1882;) Brig. Gen. Swaim and Lieut. Col. Morrow, (June, 1884,) Brig. Gen. Hazen, (March, 1885.) The power is also recognized in the Army Regulations of 1881, par. 919.

2. *DIRECT*, 53, 388-9.

3. *ZV Opins.* 302-3, note. The author's previously prepared MS on the subject under consideration was furnished to the officer of the Dept. of Justice by whom this note was drawn.

4. Report No. 868, 45th Cong., 3d Sess., March 3, 1879.

5. *Ann. State Papers*, Mil. Affairs, vol. 4, p. 854.

6. *Pages* 18, 142, 146, 147.

7. *Eds.* of 1809, p. 8; edit. of 1841, p. 13.

8. *Pages* 5, 6.

9. *Pages* 11; Lee, 86-7; Ives, 30.

10. *Do.* of M. O. 12, Army of the Potomac, 1864, (Gen. Meade;) G. O. 42, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1864, (Gen. Thomas;) Do. 27, Dept. of the West, 1864, (Gen. Pope;) Do. 160, Dept. of the Ohio, 1863, (Gen. Burnside;) Circ., Dept. & Army of the Tenn., Jan'y 16, 1865, (Gen. Howard.)

Thus resting upon law, authority and precedent, this power may now be regarded as no longer open to serious question.¹ That it may be exercised by the President in his own name or through the Secretary of War is also well settled.²

2. Under the 72d Article of War. In the second clause of this Article it is provided that when a military commander, authorized by the first clause to "appoint" a general court-martial, is the "accuser or prosecutor" of an officer of his command proposed to be brought to trial, the court shall be appointed by the President.³

This provision was introduced into our military law by an Act of May 29, 1830, as an amendment to the 65th article of the then existing code. Its purpose clearly was to debar a superior from selecting the court for the prosecution and trial of a junior under his command, and, as reviewing authority, passing upon the proceedings of such trial, or executing the punishment, if any, awarded him, in a case where, by reason of having preferred the charge or undertaken personally to pursue it, he might be biased against the accused, if indeed he had not already prejudged his case.⁴ The Article wholly divests such superior of power to

1. Since the above was written, the power has been further affirmed in a Report of the Judiciary Committee of the Senate of February 18, 1885, and by the Court of Claims, in the case of *Runkle v. U. S.*, 19 Ct. Cl., 396.

2. G. O. 35, War Dept., 1850; Coppée, 47; DIGEST, 389.

3. It may be noted that this provision does not apply to trials of *enlisted men*; also that, equally with a similar provision of the succeeding (73d) article, it does not apply to trials by inferior courts. *On principle*, however, it should be applied to such courts where it can be done "without serious embarrassment to the service." DIGEST, 56. In a case in G. O. 11, Dept. of Texas, 1866, it was applied to a trial by *military commission*.

4. "The object of this provision is just and beneficial. It is intended to prevent the packing of a court, and still more perhaps to prevent the suspicion of such packing." O'Brien, 227. And see G. O. 11, Dept. of the Ohio, 1866; also the opinion of the At. Gen. in case of Capt. Coleman, of August 2, 1882.

The occasion of this legislation was the trial of Col. R. Jones, Adjutant General, by a court convened by Maj. Gen. Macomb, then commanding the Army, who preferred the charges, was the prosecuting witness, and was also the reviewing authority who approved the sentence. See the proceedings published in G. O. 9 of March 13, 1830.

In the present practice, where a court-martial is ordered by the President, not as Commander-in-chief, but in compliance with this statute,

order the court, "nor could such power be imparted to him otherwise than by a special legislative act."

Construction of terms "accuser" and "prosecutor." As indicated by the use of the disjunctive "or," these terms are evidently intended to bear a somewhat different signification. To distinguish therefore the two designations—"accuser" is construed to mean one who either originates the charge or adopts and becomes responsible for it; "prosecutor" one who proposes or undertakes to have it tried and proved. It is not essential that the accuser or the prosecutor should be the principal, or what is sometimes termed the "prosecuting," witness, or indeed that he should be a witness at all. The characters of accuser and prosecutor, though distinct, may be united in the same person. Indeed where a commander is in fact the "accuser," he will, in the majority of cases, be found to be also the true prosecutor.

Whether a commander who has taken action in the case of an officer of his command proposed to be tried,—as by ordering his arrest, directing the preferring of charges, approving charges as preferred, &c., is to be considered as an accuser or prosecutor in the sense of this Article, so as to disqualify him from ordering the court and to make it necessary for the President to do so, is a question depending mainly upon the relation and *animus* of such commander toward the accused or the case. Where his action has been merely official, the capacity indicated cannot in general properly be ascribed to him. Thus, where, upon the facts of the supposed offence being reported to him, and appearing to call for investigation by court martial, he has, as commander, directed some proper officer, as the commander of the regiment or company of the accused, or his own staff judge advocate, to prepare the charges, indicating or not their form, or has approved or revised charges already prepared, he is not to be regarded as an "accuser" in the sense of the Article, his action having been official, and in the line of his duty. Nor is he to be deemed a "prosecutor" merely for the reason that, having personal cogniz-

the Article, is subject to the same disqualification under the 72d Article of War. See *Commissioner v. Smith*, 188 U. S. 722, 18-60: 79 Id., 618, 18-61: 180 Id., 100, 18-62: 188 Id., 188, 18-63.

¹ *See* *Commissioner v. Smith*.

ance of the facts of the case, he contemplates being a material and important witness on the trial.¹

On the other hand, where, having personally originated or adopted the charges, he has himself preferred them as his own, or caused them to be preferred nominally by another for him,² with the purpose of having them brought to trial, he is in general properly the "accuser," even if he may occupy no hostile or adverse position toward the accused. So, if, influenced by hostile feeling, or by a conviction that the accused is guilty and that his offence demands to be promptly and efficiently dealt with, he proposes, upon assembling the court, actively to promote the prosecution, as by instructing the judge advocate, facilitating the attendance of witnesses for the prosecution, appearing himself as prosecuting witness, &c., he is properly to be deemed a "prosecutor" within the meaning of the Article, and it will not be legal for him to order the court, but the President must be resorted to for the purpose.

It may be remarked that the action of the commander, to have disqualified him from convening the court must have been taken by him *of his own will*, and not merely in compliance with orders. Thus where a commander, by the direction or at the instance of the President or other official superior, has caused a subordinate to be arrested and charges to be preferred against him, and thereupon assembled a court for his trial, the proceedings or sentence of such court can not be called in question under the Article.³

The same facts and considerations which are pertinent to the inquiry as to the attitude of the commander toward the case *before* a court has been ordered, are equally so when, the court having been assembled, the accused is arraigned, or at any subsequent stage of the proceedings.⁴ In the majority of cases, the issue upon the point, whether the commander who convened the court was or not the accuser or prosecutor of the accused, has been raised by the accused either at the trial, or subsequently before the reviewing authority and especially before the President. Regularly, indeed, where the accused is informed as to the action, and *animus* of the commander in the case, he should properly take the objection at the arraignment; but as the constituting of

1. Compare DIGEST, 54-55; G. O. 25, Dept. of Fla. 1866, (remarks of Gen. Foster;) XVI Opins. At. Gen., 106.

2. See case in G. O. 11, Dept. of the Ohio, 1866.

3. DIGEST, 55.

4. DIGEST, 53. And see XVI Opins. At. Gen., 106.

a court-martial in contravention of the prohibition of the Article necessarily nullifies its proceedings *ab initio*, the question of the legality of a court claimed to have been thus constituted may be raised at any time either during or after the trial.¹

The exception being taken at the trial, the original charge, a preferred and signed, will be significant evidence. If this, however, is not forthcoming, or does not, (as it more frequently will not,) exhibit the precise relation of the commander to the case other evidence relevant to this relation may be introduced upon the trial of any other issue. The accused, if necessary, may even call upon the commander himself to be sworn and examined.

In view of the positive provision that, in the event of the contingency specified in the Article, the court is to be ordered by the President, it would scarcely be worth while to notice that an *intermediate* commander could exercise this authority, were it not for the fact that this point has actually been passed upon by the Secretary of War. This was in the case of Capt. Mackenzie who was brought to trial, in July, 1845, before a general court-martial, which, the charges having been preferred by the department commander, was ordered by Brig. Gen. Wool, commanding the "Eastern Division." The question of the authority of the latter, under the circumstances, having been submitted to Mr. Marcy, then Secretary of War, he of course decided that the order of the Division commander was illegal, and dissolved the court.²

3. Under Sec. 1230, Rev. Sts. This Section is as follows:—
"When any officer, dismissed by order of the President, makes, in writing, an application for trial, setting forth, under oath, that he has been wrongfully dismissed, the President shall, as soon as the necessities of the service may permit, convene a court-martial, and try such officer on the charges on which he shall have been dismissed. And, if a court-martial is not so convened within six months from the presentation of such application for trial, or if such court, being convened, does not award dismissal or death as the punishment of such officer, the order of dismissal by the President shall be void."

1. Compare the case in XVI Opins., 106. The right of the accused to know whether the convening commander may not be the accuser-prosecutor in the case was recognized on Gen. Porter's trial. Print Record, p. 10-11.

2. This case is referred to by De Hart, p. 7, and note.

This provision was originally enacted in s. 12 of the Act of March 3, 1865, c. 79. In this form it applied, in terms, to officers "who may be hereafter dismissed," *i. e.* after its date; and it has been held, successively, by the Judge Advocate General and the Solicitor General¹ that the fact that the word "hereafter," or some equivalent term, was not employed in the provision, as incorporated in the Rev. Sts., did not extend the application of such provision, or give it a retroactive effect so that an officer who had been dismissed in 1863 could be allowed a trial under it.

It is further evident that, under the existing law—Sec. 1229, Rev. Sts., and the 99th Art. of war—which prohibits summary dismissals of officers by the President in time of peace, the Section under consideration is operative and available only in time of war, or in cases of officers dismissed in war.²

It has been held by the Judge Advocate General,³ in whose opinion the Attorney General has since concurred,⁴ that officers *dropped for desertion* under Sec. 1229, Rev. Sts., were not of the class of dismissed officers contemplated by Sec. 1230, and so not entitled to apply for a trial under the latter statute.

The Section is incomplete in that it fails to prescribe a limit of time within which the application for a trial shall be made. It can thus only be said that it should be made within a reasonable time,⁵ and what is a reasonable time will of course depend upon the circumstances of the particular case. If not made within a reasonable time, the officer will be deemed to have acquiesced in his dismissal and waived his right to the trial.⁶

The Section, moreover, does not prescribe as to the *contents* of

1. DIGEST, 242; XVI Opins. At. Gen., 599.

2. For the few cases in which officers availed themselves of this statute at the end of the late war see G. C. M. O. 539, 568, 636, 637, of 1865; Do. 118 of 1866. In one of these cases the officer was re-dismissed; in one he was awarded a punishment less than dismissal, *viz.* forfeiture of pay, and the original dismissal was accordingly declared void; in the other three he was acquitted, with a like result.

3. DIGEST, 243.

4. Opin. of Feb. 16, 1881.

5. So held by the Judge Advocate General, (DIGEST, 242;) the Attorney General, (Opin., Feb. 16, 1881;) and the Court of Claims, (18 R. 435,)—in *Lieut. Newton's Case*, in which also the opinions above cited were mostly given. In G. O. 112 of 1865, prescribing regulations for carrying into effect the Section under consideration, it was directed that "Applications for trial under this Act must be made as soon as practicable after receipt of notice of dismissal."

6. *Newton v. U. S.*, 18 Ct. Cl. 435. In this case nine years had elapsed between the dismissal and the application.

the application, except that the applicant shall set forth therein "that he has been wrongfully and unjustly dismissed." In practice, applications which merely followed this form of words, without specifying in what the alleged wrong or injustice was claimed to consist, have been accepted as sufficient. A more specific statement, however, would be preferable.¹

It is to be observed, as a further peculiarity, that a court-martial ordered under this Section differs from all other courts-martial in that, if it fails to impose one of the sentences indicated in the Section, its judgment takes effect without the approval of the convening authority. If it acquits the party, or does not sentence him to death or to be dismissed, his original dismissal is by such action vacated instanter and he is restored to the army, and the approval or disapproval of the President can affect in no manner this result.

This statute has thus far been viewed as constitutional, but its constitutionality may well be questioned. The Attorney General indeed has passed upon this question,² holding the Section to be within the power of Congress to legislate for the government and discipline of the army, and not to be "obnoxious to the objection that it invades or frustrates the power of the President to dismiss an officer. On the contrary," he adds, "it proceeds upon an admission that the power of dismissal belongs to the President. It is simply a regulation which is to follow a dismissal, providing in certain contingencies for the restoration of the officer to the service and leaving the dismissal in full force if those contingencies do not happen." But the power of dismissal can hardly be deemed substantial if thus liable to be nullified at any time within an indefinite period, and moreover a statute which authorizes a court-martial not only to try a civilian, but practically to appoint him to the army, is certainly subject to serious question.³

II. AUTHORITY OF MILITARY COMMANDERS TO CONSTITUTE GENERAL COURTS-MARTIAL.

This authority is conferred by the 72d and 73d Articles of war, and Sec. 1326, Rev. Sts.

1. See DIGEST, 242-3. In the regulations referred to in a previous note it is directed that the application shall set forth, under oath, "fact showing the error or injustice complained of."

2. XII Opins., 4.

3. See Digest, 242, note.

2. Under the 72d Article. This Article, as has been seen, provides that—“*Any general officer commanding an army, a Territorial Division or a Department, or colonel commanding a separate Department, may appoint¹ general courts-martial whenever necessary.*”

“*General officer commanding an army.*” The corresponding term of description employed in the Article of 1874, of which the above is a recent amendment, was—“Any general officer commanding the Army of the United States, a separate army, or,” &c. Upon comparing the two forms, it is quite evident that the designation “an army” was employed as a single and comprehensive term intended to include both the Army as a whole and any lesser or separate “army”—in other words the two sorts of armies indicated in the original 72d Article. Under the present provision, therefore, a general court-martial may be ordered by the general officer assigned by the President to command the Army of the United States,² as well as by any general commanding a body of forces organized and designated by the President for special military purposes as an “army.” Such would properly be a body distinct and complete within itself, and not existing as an integral portion of some larger component part of the Army, but acting independently under its own commander, subject only to the direction of the Commander-in-chief, or the General-in-chief of the Army. Such an “army” would scarcely be constituted except in time of war; and of the species of army contemplated the Army of the Potomac, Army of the Tennessee, Army of Virginia, &c., as organized in the late war, were instances.

“*A territorial division or a department*”—“*a separate department.*” The terms “division” and “department,” as here employed, refer to the geographical or territorial commands, fixed and designated in General Orders, into which the public domain is commonly divided for military purposes.³ Such are

1. The proper significance of the term “appoint,” as meaning the same as *order* or *convene*, has been referred to in a previous note.

2. Under a similar term in the corresponding article, (the 65th.) of 1866, the different generals commanding the Army, as Gens. Dearborn, Brown, Macomb and Scott, convened, from time to time, general courts-martial.

3. As to the meaning of the term “department,” see *Parker v. U. S.*, 1 Peters, 293; also 11 Opins. At. Gen., 355, where it is held that the word

at present, (1886,) the Divisions of the Missouri, of the Atlantic and of the Pacific; and the Departments of the East, the Missouri, Texas, Dakota, the Platte, California, the Columbia and Arizona. The term "Division" is thus distinguished from the same word as employed in a purely military sense in the next Article, and the term Department from the same name as attached to the corps of the General Staff.² A general commanding both a Division and a Department, (as do the Commanders of the Divisions of the Atlantic and the Pacific,) is empowered to order a general court-martial in either of his capacities. A colonel commanding a department would not be empowered to order such a court as Division Commander even if temporarily assigned to the command of the Division.⁴

Delegation of the authority. As the Article expressly designates certain particular commanders as competent to order general courts for armies, divisions and departments, it follows, upon the principle of *expressio unius exclusio alterius*, that no other commanders or officers shall be so authorized. A commander of a division, department or army cannot therefore delegate to an inferior commander or to a staff officer the authority vested in himself by this Article, or authorize such officer to exercise the same, *for him*, in his temporary absence or otherwise.³

as used alone, (*i. e.* without the word "territorial" or like description,) in the 65th Article of 1800, meant geographical department. Note the reference to "Military Geographical Divisions and Departments" in par. 125 Army Regs.

1. That "department," as employed in the corresponding article of 1800, included a staff department, or at least the "Engineer Department," was claimed at an early period by the Chief of Engineers. See Order, Hdqrs. Engr. Dept., Washington, July 23, 1818, promulgating proceedings in cases of Pvt. B. Moss and others, Company of Bombardiers, Sappers and Miners, tried by a general court-martial convened by the Chief of Engineers at West Point, with remarks of Brig. Gen. J. G. Swift, C. E. This view was not tenable after the ruling of the Supreme Court in *Parker v. U. S.*, 1872.

2. A *frater* general, assigned under Sec. 1211, Rev. Sts., as amended by the Act of March 3, 1881, to command a Division or Department according to his brevet rank, would be invested with the command and powers of a full general under this Article, and otherwise. See Opin. At. Genl. of Feb. 23, 1881. *

3. DRAST, 54. As to the effect of the absence of the commander from his command, see *post*.

The practice was at one time very general in our Army for department or army commanders, in detaching general courts, to authorize or

Scope of the authority. It is of course to be understood that the authority, conferred by the article upon division, department and army commanders as such, extends only to the convening of courts for the trial of officers and men of their own commands.¹

Suspension of the authority by absence, &c. It further follows from the terms of the Article that the general officer must be in the exercise of his command when the court is ordered, to make the order a legal one. While the mere fact alone² that, when issuing the order, he was absent from his command, would not, provided the absence were accidental,—as where, in pursuing hostile Indians, he had temporarily passed the boundaries of his department,—properly be deemed to affect the legality of the order, the result would be otherwise where the absence were such as, by military law or usage, to *detach* him from his command. Thus, where a division or department commander is absent for any considerable period from his command by reason of having received and taken advantage of a leave of absence,³ or of having been placed by superior authority upon some distinct and separate military duty,—as the duty of sitting as a member of a court or

instruct the commander of the post at which the court was to be held, to fill up such vacancies as might occur in the detail, through absence, &c., with officers of his command selected by himself. See, for example, G. O. as late as of Aug. 24 and Sept. 23, 1841. In some cases the president only, or two or three members, were named by the superior, and the inferior was directed to add the rest. See G. O. 14 of 1832; Do. 33 of 1838; also Do. (without number,) of April 11, 1838. In a few cases the order for the court designated a certain post commander as president, and directed him to detail the other members from his command. See, for example, G. O. 60, of 1835. It need hardly be said that all such orders were in contravention of law, and upon the revision by the Secretary of War of Capt. Trenor's case, (G. O. 71 of Nov. 18, 1841,) in which the practice was condemned, the same was finally discontinued.

1. DIGEST, 53.

2. Compare XVI Opins. At. Gen., 678.

3. The principle that the effect of the status of being on leave of absence is to detach the officer from the command or duty held or exercised at the time of entering upon the leave, is illustrated in I Opins. At. Gen. 181; VII Id. 161; XIII Id. 526, 527; U. S. v. Williamson, 23 Wallace, 415. And see the definition of soldiers "in the line of duty," as excluding those "at the time on furlough or leave of absence," in J. R. of April 12, 1866. In XIII Opins. 527, the Atty. Gen. says:—to have "no post or duty * * * is the case, for the time being, of an officer on leave."

board at a distance from his department,—his authority under the 72d Article will, during the period of such absence, strictly and properly be regarded as *suspended*, even if no other officer be assigned to command in his place.¹

In such cases indeed the same power that has originally assigned the officer to his command, the President, may *specially order* that, during his absence or detaching duty, he shall continue to exercise his division or department command as if he were present; and under such an order he would continue to be authorized to convene general courts therefor: without some such order, however, the use of such authority might give rise to a serious legal question, and the same could not therefore safely be exercised.

Discretion, in general, of commander under the Article. Under the conditions indicated, and subject to the general law of the service, the power vested in the commander by the Article is *complete* and *exclusive*. The President indeed, as Commander-in-chief, may direct him to order a court in a particular case; and the exercise of his authority must of course be governed by the statute of limitations, (Art. 103.) But, in general, it is entirely within his discretion to determine, in each instance, whether a court shall be ordered at all,² or, if ordered, when and where, (within the command,) it shall be convened. As to *place*, the commander, being informed of the stations and status of the officers of his command available for court-martial duty, (and having in view the provision of the 76th Article,) will readily select the locality at which any particular court may be assembled with the most convenience to the service and the least expense to the United States.

2. Under the 73d Article. This Article is as follows:—
“In time of war the commander of a division, or of a separate brigade of troops, shall be competent to appoint a general court-

1. DIGEST, 54; G. C. M. O. 26 of 1878; Do. 9, Dept. of Columbia, 1880. The “decision of the Executive” referred to in the former of these Orders was a ruling, (in concurrence with an opinion of the Judge Advocate General,) that a department commander, who had duly convened a certain general court-martial, was not authorized to take action upon and approve its proceedings and sentence, when absent from his command and the department, on a leave of absence.

2. DIGEST, 53.

martial. But when such commander is the accuser or prosecutor of any person under his command, the court shall be appointed by the next higher commander."

Operation of the Article. This statute, of which the original form was contained in the Act, passed early in the late war, of Dec. 24, 1861, made its first appearance as an Article of war in the revised code of 1874.¹ As a provision for time of war only, it was viewed as ceasing to be operative on Aug. 20th, 1866, the date assigned as that of the conclusion of the *status belli*;² and in several cases the proceedings of courts convened under it in 1866, subsequently to that date, were declared void in Orders.³

Division and brigade commands. In our law a brigade properly consists of at least two regiments of infantry or cavalry, and a division of at least two brigades; and the "commander" indicated in the Article will regularly be, of the former a brigadier general, and of the latter a major general.⁴ It is not however essential that he should be such, or even a general officer. A colonel or officer of less rank may, in war, become, for the time, by virtue of seniority, the commander of a brigade or a division, and as such empowered to exercise the authority devolved by this Article. Except indeed in war, divisions and brigades are not formed in our army.⁵

Meaning of "separate brigade." By this term is evidently meant a brigade which is not a component part of any division, but is operating by itself, and of which the commander reports directly to the commander of the corps, army, or department, or to the General commanding the Army or the Commander-in-chief.⁶ After the passage of the Act of 1861, the original of Art. 73, it was found that officers sometimes assumed to convene general courts as commanders of "separate" brigades, when their

1. Other provisions of this Act are incorporated in Arts. 105, 107 and 112.

2. The Protector, 12 Wallace, 702.

3. G. O. 68, Dept. of Washington, 1866; Do. 7, Dept. of the Potomac, 1866; Do. 24, Dept. of the Mo., 1866.

4. Sec. 1114, Rev. Sts. See *ante* as to the difference between the term "division" as here used and as used in the preceding Article.

5. Par. 128, Army Regs.

6. DIGEST, 56.

commanders were not *proper* in the strict sense of the Article were authorized to convene commanders, or were small enough to be properly commanding in or constituting a brigade. The latter was particularly the case with the brigade known as "Cass's." With a view of defining the point there was issued from the War Department in August, 1865, a General Order, which under the heading of "Courts-Martial by separate Brigades," prescribed as follows:—"Where a post or district command is composed of forces equal to a brigade, the commanding officer of the Department or Army designate it in order as 'a separate brigade,' and a copy of order will accompany the proceedings of any General Court-Martial convened by such brigade commander. Without such authority commanders of posts and districts having no brigade organization will not convene General Courts-Martial."

The rulings of the Judge Advocate General in construing Order are set forth in the Digest of Opinions.³

The Article under consideration concludes with the provision that, when a commander, authorized by the article to convene a general court, "is the accuser or prosecutor of any person within his command, the court shall be appointed by the next higher commander." What has been said under the previous Article to the purport of the terms "accuser" and "prosecutor" will substantially be applicable here. The "next higher commander" in our military organization in time of war, will ordinarily be the commander of the army corps, separate army, or department which the "division" or "separate brigade" is included.

3. Under Sec. 1326, Rev. Sts. This statute declares that "The Superintendent of the Military Academy shall have power to convene general courts-martial for the trial of cadets, and

1. In G. O. 399 of 1863, the proceedings were set aside and sentence held inoperative in a case tried by a general court convened by the commanding officer of the "2d Brigade, 3d Division, 14th Corps," i. e. of a brigade which was a component of a division and not "a separate." And see G. O. 246 of the same year; also DIGEST.

2. See case in G. O. 14, Dept. of the Platte, 1866.

3. Pages 57-58. See also G. C. M. O. 43, of 1865, where it was held that the officer commanding the "Kanawha Valley Force" was not authorized to order a general court; also G. O. 48, Nov. 1865, where it was similarly held of the commander of a Rendezvous.

execute the sentences of such courts, except the sentences of suspension and dismissal, subject to the same limitations and conditions now existing as to other general courts-martial."

This is an enactment of March 3, 1873, and is properly an article of war. The "Superintendent" indicated is an officer invested, by Sec. 1311, Rev. Sts., with the "immediate government and military command" of the Academy and of the military post of West Point. The above provision is sufficiently clearly expressed,¹ and no serious question as to its construction is known to have been raised. The "limitations and conditions" which it refers to are the following, viz:—(1) that sentences of dismissal or suspension, imposed upon cadets by courts-martial convened by the superintendent, can become operative only through the order of the President given for their execution, upon the formal confirmation by him of the same, after the approval thereof by the Superintendent; (2) that where the Superintendent is the "accuser" or "prosecutor" of a cadet whose trial is contemplated, recourse must be had to the President for the ordering of the court.

1. It would have been more complete had the words *approve the proceedings and* been inserted before the word "execute." That the Superintendent shall approve before executing is however of course to be understood.

CHAPTER VII.

THE COMPOSITION OF GENERAL COURTS-MARTIAL.

This subject is regulated by the 75th, 77th, 78th and 79th Articles of War, and Sec. 1658, Rev. Sts. It will be considered under the heads of—I. Class and Rank of Members; II. Number of Members.

I. CLASS AND RANK OF MEMBERS.

They must be Commissioned Officers—Art. 75. This Article provides that—“*General courts-martial may consist of * * * officers;*” i. e. that officers alone shall be competent to sit on such courts. Sec. 1342, Rev. Sts., by which the code of Articles is prefaced, declares that “the word officer as used therein shall be understood to designate *commissioned officers*.” Commissioned officers only therefore may compose general courts.¹ The detailing of non-commissioned officers or soldiers, where the accused is one of these grades, with commissioned officers, on courts-martial, which is required by some of the European codes,² has never been authorized by our law.

General Rule of Eligibility. The term “officers” not being limited or qualified by the Article, (Art. 75,) it follows that *all* commissioned officers of the army, of whatever rank, and whether or not having *command*, are, (except where specifically excluded by express enactment,) eligible to be detailed as members of general courts. Officers on the retired list are so excluded by Sec. 1259, Rev. Sts.; but they are the only class thus excepted. All

1. The law is the same as to inferior courts. See Arts. 80–82.

2. See the author's Translation of the German Military Code, p. 16—note, and authorities cited. The French Code de Justice Militaire, § 10, directs that one *sous-officier*, (non-commissioned officer,) shall sit on courts for the trial of non-commissioned officers and soldiers.

other commissioned officers, *i. e.* all officers on the active list,¹ whether of the line or staff, may legally sit as members;² and although staff officers are detailed as such less frequently than line officers, there is, in our present limited army, no department or branch of the staff which is not more or less frequently represented on courts-martial, except only chaplains.³

Who are Commissioned Officers. These are officers who have duly received and accepted commissions appointing them, (or rather evidencing their appointment,) to *offices* in the army. A commission may be permanent or temporary; that is to say it may evidence an appointment made by the President and confirmed by the Senate, or merely an appointment of the class authorized, by Art. II, Sec. 2 § 3, of the Constitution, to be conferred by the President during a recess of the Senate, to "expire at the end of their next session," and also called "commissions" in the Constitution. Thus an officer holding a commission of the latter description, is, while it remains in force, as eligible to be assigned to duty on a court-martial as is any officer who has received the more formal and permanent commission issued upon the confirmation of his appointment by the Senate. So, the tenure, as to duration, of the office conferred by the commission cannot affect the eligibility of the officer for court-martial service. Thus a commissioned officer of volunteers, though the tenure of his office may be limited to a comparatively brief period, is no less eligible for such service.⁴

The appointment of a Cadet is not a commission in the military sense. He is therefore not a commissioned officer, and not eligible to act as a member of any court-martial.⁵

"Acting" Officers. It need hardly be added that persons "*act-*

1. That is to say, all active officers having *military rank*. See *post*.

2. Subject of course to objection under Art. 88. It may be remarked that officers known or believed to be liable to challenge will not properly be detailed upon courts-martial.

3. Chaplains, being commissioned officers with the rank of captain, are as *legally eligible* for court-martial duty as any other officers of the army. Their detail however has been expressly disapproved by the Secretary of War. Circ., Dept. of Cal., June 8, 1875.

4. See X Opins. At. Gen., 522-3.

5. I Opins. At. Gen., 469; II Id., 251; VII Id., 323; *Babbitt v. U. S.*, Ct. Cl., 203.

ing," (by the authority of military orders,) as officers, or for an in the stead of officers, but who are not legally appointed or commissioned as such, are, though effectively performing all the duties which would devolve upon officers of the army under similar circumstances, clearly not officers within the meaning of the present Article, or qualified to sit upon courts-martial. Thus an "acting assistant," or "contract" surgeon, not being an officer of the army but a civil official, is not so qualified,¹ and would not be so even though serving with an army in the field and thus subject to military law. Nor, for a similar reason, would a civilian acting as a volunteer aid on the staff of a general in the field, or a non-commissioned officer acting as a commissioned officer, be thus eligible.

"Officers" implies Rank—Professors. It is clearly contemplated by the laws and regulations governing the service that members of courts-martial shall have relative military rank. Thus Art. 79 provides that an officer shall not in general be tried by officers inferior to him in rank; so the Army Regulations pars. 878, 879, 881, direct as to the order of the naming of the members in the detail and their precedence on the court and as to the selection by seniority of the president. The term "officers," as employed in Art. 75, must therefore be deemed to imply *rank*; and as all commissioned officers, with a single exception, of the present military establishment have military rank, it follows that the excepted officers referred to cannot legally be ordered to sit on courts-martial. These are the professors of the Military Academy, who, though made by Sec. 1094, Rev. Sts., a part of the army, and appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate as public officers,² yet have no military rank. That they were not eligible to detail upon courts-martial, because having no rank "lineal or assimilated," was held by Attorney General Wirt in 1821,³ and, in the respect of rank, their status has not since been changed.

Relative Rank of Members—Art. 79. This Article, with a view to the excluding, as far as reasonably practicable, from courts-martial, officers who as junior to the accused may have a

1. DIGEST, 59.

2. That they are commissioned officers is noticed in a recent opinion of the Atty. Gen. of May 12, 1882.

3. Opins. At. Gen., 469.

interest in procuring him to be dismissed, suspended, &c., provides that—"No officer shall, when it can be avoided, be tried by officers inferior to him in rank." This provision, (like that of the 75th article in reference to the *number* of the court, presently to be considered,) is regarded as not prohibitory but directory only upon the convening commander. Its effect is understood to be to leave to the discretion of that officer, as the conclusive authority and judge, the determining of the question of the rank of the members, with only the general instruction that superiors or equals in rank to the accused shall be selected, so far as the exigencies and interests of the service may permit. Such was, early in the recent war, the construction given to the provision by Judge Advocate General Holt,¹ and this construction, adopted by other authorities,² has been sustained by the long-continued practice of the service. Thus, that an officer is inferior in rank or grade to the accused does not render him incompetent to sit as a member of the court-martial,³ or subject him as such member to challenge.⁴

In practice, in our service, courts for the trial of general officers have almost invariably, if not necessarily, comprised members junior to the accused; in time of *peace* indeed, it would rarely be practicable to assemble even a *minimum* court of equals or superiors in rank for the trial of a general officer of one of the higher grades.⁵ Upon courts for the trial of officers of the lower

1. DIGEST, 60.

2. See Trial of Capt. D. Porter of the navy, (1825,) p. 20; G. C. M. O. 7, Dept. of the Platte, 1880; *Wooley v. U. S.*, 20 Law Rep. 631.

That the phrase, "*when it can be avoided*," in Art. 79, has practically the same meaning as the clause of Art. 75, that general courts "*shall not consist of less than 13 when that number can be convened without manifest injury to the service*," is illustrated by the provision in the *naval article*, (No. 39,) corresponding to that of Art. 79, viz:—"where it can be avoided without injury to the service"; this expression combining in effect the two forms employed in the articles of war.

3. This point is noticed in a recent opinion of the Atty. Gen. of June 18, 1882.

4. See Trial of Capt. Porter above cited; also, generally, under EIGHTY-EIGHTH ARTICLE in Chapter XIV.

5. On some of the principal trials of general officers in our army, the rank of the members of the court was as follows: Maj. Gen. Chas. Lee, (1778,)—1 maj. gen., 4 brig. gens., 8 cols.; Maj. Gen. Arnold, (1779,)—1 maj. gen., 3 brig. gens., 9 cols.; Brig. Gen. Hull, (1813,)—1 maj. gen., 1 brig. gen., 4 cols., 7 lieut. cols.; Maj. Gen. Wilkinson, (1814,)—2 maj. gens., 3 brig. gens., 7 cols., 1 lieut. col.; Maj. Gen. Gaines,

degrees the direction of the Article has been more nearly observed. There have indeed been frequent departures from the rule, prompted doubtless in general by a due consideration for the convenience and economy of the service. Such exceptions, however, *if reasonably avoidable*, are in contravention of the letter of the law, and should not be too freely sanctioned.

Competency of Certain Classes of Officers in Certain Cases—Regulars, as distinguished from volunteers, militia, &c.—Art. 77. This article declares that—“*Officers of the regular army shall not be competent to sit on courts-martial to try the officers and soldiers of other forces, except as provided in Art. 78,*”—next to be considered. By “regular army” is to be understood the permanent military establishment, as especially distinguished from *volunteers*, or *militia* in the federal service. These two contingents—volunteers and militia—are indeed quite distinct from each other; the former, as will be further illustrated in the next Chapter, being, for the time, equally with the regulars, a part of the Army of the United States, while the latter, though in the employment of the nation, are State troops.¹ But in view of the comprehensive and general term, “officers and soldiers of *other forces*,” the Article has been construed as disqualifying regular officers from acting as members of courts-martial for the trial of any officers or soldiers not of the regular army, whether volunteers, militia, drafted men, or any other persons except the class of *marines* designated in the next article.

(1816,)—1 maj. gen., 3 brig. gens., 3 cols., 6 lieut. cols.; Bvt. Maj. Gen. Twiggs, (1858,)—3 bvt. maj. gens., 2 bvt. brig. gens., 5 cols., 2 bvt. cols., 5 lieut. cols.; Maj. Gen. Porter, (1862,)—2 maj. gens. 7 brig. gens.; Brig. Gen. Hammond, (1864,)—1 maj. gen., 8 brig. gens.; Brig. Gen. Swaim, (1884,)—1 maj. gen., 5 brig. gens., 7 cols.; Brig. Gen. Hazen, (1885,)—2 maj. gens., 8 brig. gens. 3 cols.

The court for the trial of Marshal Bazaine, (1873,) consisted of ten generals, no marshals being at the time available. That by which the “Emperor” Maximilian and his generals Miramon and Mejia were tried and sentenced to death, at Queretaro, Mexico, June 13-14, 1867, was composed of one lieut. col. (president.) and six captains.

1. In some cases during the late war volunteers were confounded with militia and it was held that, under the then existing Art. 97, a regular officer could not legally be detailed on a court for the trial of volunteers. G. O. 53, Dept. of the East, 1864; Do. 16 Dept. of the Mo., 1864; G. C. M. O. 11, 13, 16, Dept. of Ky., 1865. While this construction is believed to have been incorrect, it can scarcely be questioned that the present Art. 77—a much clearer and more precise provision—is to be interpreted as indicated in the text.

Thus a court composed entirely of regular officers cannot legally be ordered for the trial of an officer or soldier of another military force; nor, where such a court has been once duly created for the trial of a regular or regulars, is it qualified to proceed to the trial of a volunteer, &c., if brought before it for trial. And where the court is not entirely but only partially so composed, even if it comprises five officers of another force eligible for the particular trial, it cannot properly proceed to such trial. Should it do so, its proceedings would not indeed necessarily be void, but, inasmuch as, in the event of a conviction and sentence, the proportion of the members who concurred in the judgment would not be known, the only safe course for the reviewing authority would be to disapprove the proceedings.

Volunteers, &c., as eligible for trial of regulars. It may be noted that while regular officers are thus precluded by Art. 77 from trying offenders belonging to the other branches of the public military force, our code contains no converse provision that regulars shall not be tried by courts composed of officers of the other contingents—militia or volunteers—of a mixed national army. In the absence of any such provision during the late war, officers of volunteers were not unfrequently detailed as members of courts-martial for the trial of regular officers and soldiers; their competency to take part in such trials having been at an early date affirmed by the Judge Advocate General. Officers of militia called forth and engaged in the public service would have been equally competent. And—the law remaining unchanged—militia and volunteer officers will of course be similarly competent, when serving with regulars in the future; as will also militia officers be competent to sit upon trials of volunteers.¹

1. In this connection may be noticed a ruling properly made during the late war—that an aid-de-camp to a Governor of a State was not *as such* eligible to be detailed on a court-martial for the trial of U. S. volunteers. G. O. 30, Dept. of the Mo., 1864.

It is of course not competent for a military commander to *order* that courts for the trial of a certain class of volunteer, &c., troops shall be *imposed* in whole or in part of particular volunteer, &c., officers. *Thus the order*—G. O. 46, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1863—that a majority of the members of courts for the trial of *colored troops* should, *when the same* could be detailed without manifest injury to the service,) officers in command of such troops, was properly revoked by the subsequent G. O. 29, Dept. of Va., 1865.

Regulars and Marines associated—Art. 78. This article provides that:—“*Officers of the marine corps, detached for service with the army by order of the President, may be associated with officers of the regular army on courts-martial for the trial of offenders belonging to the regular army, or to forces of the marine corps so detached.*” The nature and capacity of that amphibious branch of the public service known as the Marines, as a kind of connecting link between the army and the navy, is illustrated in this Article. This corps, under the earlier legislation in regard to it,¹ had occupied an undefined position.² The Act of June 30, 1834, however, while assimilating it to the army in respect to organization, discipline and pay, permanently attached it to the naval establishment for administrative and jurisdictional purposes,³ and it is now classed as a part of the navy in the Revised Statutes. The Act of 1834 contained a provision, now re-enacted in Sec. 1621, Rev. Sts.,—“*That the said corps shall at all times be subject to and under the laws and regulations which are or may hereafter be established for the better government of the navy, except when detached for service with the army by order of the President.*”

The latter part of this provision, incorporated with the substance of Article 68 of the code of 1806, forms the present 78th Article.

The principal situations in which marines would be likely to co-operate or be associated with the army on duty, are indicated in the provision of the Act of 1798, embodied in Sec. 1619, Rev. Sts., as follows—“*The marine corps shall be liable to do duty in the forts and garrisons of the United States, on the sea-coast, or any other duty on shore, as the President at his discretion may direct.*” Marines were detached for service with the army for considerable periods in the war with Mexico;⁴ and similarly on

1. Res. of Nov. 10, 1775; Acts of March 27, 1794, July 1, 1797, April 27, 1798, July 11, 1798, and Dec. 15, 1814.

2. Atty. Gen. Berrien describes the corps, (in 1830,) as—“in many respects anomalous, attached both to the army proper and to the naval armament of the United States, and yet incorporated with neither but rather *sui generis*” II Opins. 357. And see Id. 239-241, 353; III Id. 117, where it was regarded as rather belonging to the army; and, *contra*, I Id. 381; II Id. 78; V Id. 705; Com. v. Gamble, 11 S. & R. 93; Wilkes v. Dinsman, 7 Howard, 125, where it was viewed as an adjunct of the navy—under the legislation prior to 1834.

3. See X Opins. At. Gen., 118, 129, 487; Wilkes v. Dinsman, 7 Howard, 125, 126; In re Baily, 2 Sawyer, 200.

4. See the references to the services of this corps in the Mexican war,

several occasions during the recent war, of which the taking of Fort Fisher was the most marked.¹

In the early case of Lieut. Col. Wharton of the marine corps,* it was held by Atty. Gen. Rush that, under the terms of Art. 68 of 1806, it was *discretionary* with the government whether to detail *any* marine officers on a court-martial for the trial of a marine serving in connection with the army;—that the court might legally be composed of army officers only; and this conclusion was approved by the President. It was deemed expedient, however, to detail two marine officers on the court in that case; and such course, since adopted in practice, is especially fitting in view of the changed relations of the army and marine corps under the subsequent legislation.

In what proportions the two different classes of officers will properly be associated on courts-martial is not indicated by the Article; this matter being evidently left to be regulated by the convening authority in view of the comparative numbers of the officers of the two corps available for the duty, the particular corps—whether army or marines—of the offender or majority of offenders to be tried, &c.³

in V Opins. At. Gen., 59, 155; also the recognition of their service by Congress in the J. R. of Aug. 10, 1848, and in the vote of thanks, tendered in the J. R. of Aug. 7, 1848, "to the officers, sailors, and marines of the navy," especially for "their efficient co-operation with the army in the capture of Vera Cruz and the castle of San Juan de Ulloa." See, further, as illustrating the subject, the printed Trial of 1st Lieut. J. S. Devlin, Marine Corps, Washington, 1852.

1. See official reports of Gen. Terry and Rear Admiral Porter, and votes of thanks to them and their commands in the J. R. of Jan. 24, 1865.

2. G. O. of Sept. 19, 1817.

3. Marine, and other, officers were detailed together as follows, in the following Orders:—In G. O., Third Mil. Dept., of Oct. 20, 1813, 1 marine officer with 4 regular and 2 volunteer officers: In G. O., Hdqrs., N. Orleans, of Dec. 25, 1813, 2 marine with 7 other officers: In Dept. O., Second Mil. Dept., Nov. 15, 1817, 1 marine officer with 5 other officers: In Lt. Col. Wharton's case, (*ante*,) 2 marine with 3 regular officers: In Orders, Second Mil. Dept., Nov. 24, 1818, 3 marine with 2 regular officers: In G. O. 6, A. G. O., 1830, 2 marine with 5 regular officers, for the trial of a captain of marines: In O., No. 47, Army of the South, 1836, 2 marine with 5 regular officers: In G. O. 10, Hdqrs. Army, Mexico, 1848, 1 marine officer with 8 regular officers, in a court by which were tried 24 soldiers of the army and 1 enlisted marine.

Hough, (P. 683,) cites a case of an officer of marines, in which, "*at the prisoner's request*, his court-martial," (ordered under an article similar to that of our code,) "was composed of one-half officers of his own corps and the other half of officers of the line."

Militia—Authority for their government, &c. The Constitution, Art. I, Sec. 8 § 15, 16, empowers Congress—"To provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions;" and further—"To provide for organizing, arming and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the United States; reserving to the States respectively the appointment of the officers, and the authority of training the militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress." It also, (Art. II, Sec. 2 § 1,) makes the President the Commander-in-chief of the militia when in the service of the United States.

By virtue of these grants, Congress, in a series of statutes, particularly in those of May 2, 1792, Feb. 28, 1795, April 18, 1814, May 13, 1846, July 29, 1861, and July 17, 1862, s. 1, has authorized the President, in certain contingencies,¹ to call forth the militia, and has provided for their government; and, in a further series, (particularly in those of May 8, 1792, Jan. 2, 1795, May 2, 1803, April 23, 1808, May 12, 1820, March 19, 1836, and July 17, 1862, s. 2,) has provided more especially for their organization, arming, pay, and internal discipline.

Of the former series, the Act of 1792 was repealed and superseded by that of 1795, which was indeed with some slight modifications a repetition of the first. The Acts of 1814 and 1846 were resorted to for the special occasions of the late war with Great Britain and the war with Mexico respectively, and presently expired by their own limitation.² To the date of the Revised Statutes the Act of 1795 remained the principal law on the subject of the mobilization and government of the militia, though in some of its details superseded or materially amended by the Acts above specified of 1861 and 1862.³ These Acts were indeed adaptations of the legislation of 1795 to the circumstances of the recent war.

1. That the President is the sole judge to determine whether one of the exigencies contemplated by the Constitution has arisen, and that his decision on the point is conclusive upon all other persons, was held in *Martin v. Mott*, 12 Wheaton, 19. And see *Luther v. Borden*, 7 Howard, 11; *Vanderheyden v. Young*, 11 Johns. 150; *People v. Campbell*, 40 N. Y. 135; *Kneedler v. Lane*, 45 Pa. St. 238.

2. See *Mills v. Martin*, 19 Johns. 21, 23.

3. By the Act of 1862, the President was, for the first time, authorized to resort to conscription for compelling the service of the militia. See *McCall's Case*, 5 Philad. 259.

Such of their provisions as were of a general character, together with those remaining from the Act of 1795 and other early legislation, comprise, (in combination with the operative enactments of the second series above indicated,) the existing law relating to the militia, and are all incorporated in a separate Title—No. XVI—of the Revised Statutes.

The first section of this Title defines the militia as including, generally,¹ “every able-bodied male citizen of the respective States, resident therein, who is of the age of eighteen years, and under the age of forty-five years;” and Atty. Gen. Legaré has well described this class as “the body of the people, armed and disciplined in self defense.”² When and how the militia are brought within the *jurisdiction* of courts-martial, and what is the extent of that jurisdiction, will be considered in the next Chapter.

Composition of militia courts. As to the composition of such courts,—Sec. 1658, Rev. Sts., (a re-enactment, in the same words, of s. 6 of the Act of 1795,³) provides: “Courts-martial for the trial of militia shall be composed of militia officers only.”

The “courts-martial” here indicated are courts-martial of the United States, convened under the Articles of war, and the militia referred to are the militia when called into the active service of the United States under the Constitution and the laws above mentioned. The “militia officers” are the officers elected or appointed for such militia under the laws of the States from which they are called.

In composing, however, courts-martial for the trial of militia, the members are to be selected from the entire body of militia officers in the service of the United States, without any reference to the different States from which they may have been called. Militia once called into the service, from whatever State, may be placed by the President under the command of *any* officer,⁴ and may be required to serve in any part of the United States;⁵ and it was specifically held in *Mills v. Martin*⁶ that a court for the

1. With certain exemptions specified in Sec. 1629.

2. II Opins. At. Gen., 691.

3. This provision was also contained in the code of articles of 1806, (in Art. 97,) but was omitted from that of 1874.

4. Cooley, note to 2 Story, Com. 121.

5. *Highsmith v. Ussery*, 25 Texas, 108.

6. 19 Johns. 7.

trial of a militiaman need not be composed of officers of the militia of the State of the accused, but might legally be made up of officers of the militia of *any* State or States. In the article of war of 1776, in which the statute under consideration first appeared in our law, it was provided that militia courts should "be composed entirely of militia officers of the same provincial corps with the offender." This restriction was omitted in the corresponding article of 1806, the original provision having been meanwhile superseded by the present form as initiated in the Act of 1795.¹

II. NUMBER OF MEMBERS,

The Law on the Subject. This is contained in Art. 75, and follows:—"General courts-martial may consist of any number of members from five to thirteen; but they shall not consist of less than thirteen when that number can be convened without manifest injury to the service."

Five Members a Quorum. It is clear from the first part of this provision that, while a court of less than five or more than thirteen² members will not be a legal body,³ a court of five will always be a full and complete tribunal for the purpose of trial and judgment, and that the addition of further members will no augment or in any manner affect its jurisdiction or authority. A less number indeed than five may meet and adjourn, and when there are but five members present at the outset and one is objected to, (under Art. 88,) the other four may deliberate and

1. The present enactment is, as has already been noticed, properly an article of war, and might well have been embraced in the present, as it was in the preceding, code.

2. The first Mutiny Act prescribed that no court authorized thereby should "consist of fewer than thirteene." (Code, (M. L., 120,) ob. serves— "It may reasonably be presumed that the controlling analogy which suggested this tribunal, composed of a president and twelve officers, was the civil administration of justice by a presiding judge and twelve jurymen." In the present British law, "a general court-martial shall consist in the United Kingdom, India, Malta, and Gibraltar, of not less than five, and elsewhere of not less than five officers." Army Act, 1880, § 2.

3. Thirteen members were usually detailed for our earlier important general courts-martial—those of 1806, for the trials of Gen. Hul W. Jackson and Gen. and Col. Cocking in 1817-1818. So, for the trials of Gen. Thomas B. S. in Col. Fremont in 1847, and Gen. Twiggs in 1855. Of late years the maximum has more commonly been nine, the number in the cases of Gen. Faneuil and General in the rece

determine upon the challenge.¹ But five members at least must be sworn and constitute the court for the trial, and five must continue present and acting throughout the entire proceedings till the final record is completed and authenticated.

If the court begins with more than five members, the loss or absence of one or more does not affect its capacity provided at least five remain, and this rule applies through the entire life of the body.² Thus five are sufficient to be re-assembled and to revise the sentence, though when it was originally adjudged, the court may have consisted of ten or thirteen members; and the sentence, as revised and finally adopted by the five, will be the sentence of the court.³

On the other hand, if a court, beginning with five or more, loses, by the operation of challenge, or by death, sickness, or other casualty, a member or members, so that it is reduced to four or less, its action must be at once suspended, since it has ceased, for the time at least, to be a court, and the objection to its proceeding is one which cannot be waived.⁴

The number—within the limitations of the Article—to be detailed upon a general court for the trial of any case or cases, will be determined by the convening commander in his discretion and with a view especially to such circumstances as the rank of the accused, the importance of the case, the character of the offence, the supply of available officers, and the exigencies of the service.⁵

Authority to add Members. A General court, though reduced below five, is not necessarily to be dissolved, nor can it

war. In the cases of Gens. Swaim and Hazen, however, the number detailed was thirteen. In the British service, before courts of less than thirteen were authorized for the trial of officers, the number of members often exceeded that number. For example, the number detailed for the trial of Lord George Sackville, in 1760, was sixteen; for the trials of Lt. Gen. Murray and Col. Debbieg, in 1783 and 1784, eighteen; for the trial of Lt. Gen. Mordaunt, in 1757, twenty-one; and for the trials of Capt. Burrish, Lieut. Page, and others, tried by a naval court in 1745, twenty-five.

1. DIGEST, 59.

2. A form, now unknown, prevailed to some extent in our army, apparently till about 1841, of detailing 13 or 11 members, with directions to proceed if not reduced below 9 or 7. See G. O. 44 of 1832; 3 of 1837; 25 of 1839; 65 of 1841.

3. DIGEST, 441. And see VII Opins. At. Gen., 338.

4. DIGEST, 59.

5. Coppée, 55.

assume to dissolve itself or declare itself dissolved. Such dissolving is a function of the convening commander, who is empowered, in his discretion, to continue the court by adding a member, or the requisite number of members to bring it up to five, and when thus renewed, its power as a court is restored, and it may legally proceed with the trial.¹ The adding, however, of new members to courts-martial, *after a trial has been entered upon*, has been of rare occurrence in our practice. Such action is not indeed illegal;² the added member, provided the evidence taken, or material proceedings had, prior to his appearance, be first read to him from the record, and he be duly sworn, (and the accused has been afforded an opportunity to challenge him), may legally act upon the court during the remainder of the trial and take part in the judgment; and the sentence, if any, imposed by the court will be entirely legal and operative. But this act must be in general of doubtful policy, and is not to be resorted to unless the demands of justice and interests of the service clearly require it. Where, for example, by the death, disability, or enforced absence, &c., of a member or members, a court is reduced below five, in the midst of an important trial, so that it is not renewed, its previous proceedings, however extended, will be for nothing, and the trial will have to be recommenced by a new court, to the delay of justice; inconvenience of the service, detriment of discipline, and perhaps greatly increased public expense,—in such a case the authorized commander will be fully justified in continuing the court by the detail of the requisite number of members.

Effect of Second Clause of Article—"Manifest injury"

The Article, as has been seen, declares that a general court "shall not consist of less than thirteen when that number can be convened without manifest injury to the service." In a case of a deserter sentenced to be shot by a court of five members, it was held in an early period, (1810,) by Atty. Gen. Wirt,³ that the court " "

1. DIGEST, 59.

2. Though not favored, it has been regarded as legal in our service ever since it was sanctioned by the Secretary of War on Gen. H. trial in 1814. The Secretary there held that new members might be added pending a trial, "the proceedings as recorded being read to them." See published Trial, appendix, p. 29. From this ruling deduced also the authority for the returning to the court of absent members subject to be considered in Chapter XII.

3. 1 Opins., 299, 300.

not a legal" one "if thirteen could have been convened without manifest injury to the service." He adds:—"It is difficult to conceive an emergency so pressing as to disable the general officer who orders the court from convening thirteen commissioned officers on a trial of life and death, without manifest injury to the service. And if a smaller number act without such manifest emergency, I repeat that they are not a lawful court, and an execution under their sentence would be murder." He concludes by suggesting to the Secretary of War "as a matter of legal propriety, that in every case of life and death at least, the President ought to be satisfied of the manifest injury which the service would have sustained in convening a court of thirteen before he gives his sanction to a sentence of death by a smaller number."

This case was one which occurred in time of peace, when death sentences are required to be confirmed by the President, and, being of an extreme class, it was proper that the fullest weight should be given to any legal doubt as to the validity of the proceedings. But the theory that the question of "manifest injury" is reviewable by the President, or any authority superior to the officer who ordered the court, has ceased to be admissible since the specific adjudication on the subject, in 1827, by the Supreme Court in the case of *Martin v. Mott*.¹ In this case, Story, J., in construing the provision of the Article under consideration, held that the same was "merely directory to the officer appointing the court, and that his decision as to the number which can be convened without manifest injury to the service, being in a matter submitted to his sound discretion, must be conclusive." This ruling settled the law on this point,² and the question as to the legality of a court of less than thirteen members is not now raised in practice.

In the form of Order for convening a general court, given in the Army Regulations, (§ 881,) and commonly employed, it is indicated as to be added after the recital of the officers detailed, when less than thirteen—"A greater number of officers than those named cannot be assembled without manifest injury to the service." This regulation, however, is not in terms or in effect a requirement, the addition of the clause, though usual, is not

1. 12 Wheaton, 34.

2. See II Opins. Atty. Gen. 535; VI Id. 511; *Wooley v. U. S.*, 20 Law Rep. 631. G. O. 4, Mil. Div. Atlantic, 1874; also Clode, (M. L.,) 123.

necessary, and its omission will affect in no manner the validity of the Order. The mere fact that less than thirteen *are* detailed will constitute a sufficient indication of the determination by the convening officer, in his discretion, that a greater number could in fact be assembled without the prejudice to the service contemplated by the Article.¹

Supernumerary Members. It remains to notice a practice which at one time prevailed in our service, of detailing, for a court of thirteen, (and sometimes with a court of a lesser number) one or more additional officers as "supernumeraries," whose purpose was to supply the places of such original members as might be excluded on challenge, or whose seats might be vacated by absence,—thus keeping the court always up to the maximum of thirteen. These officers took their seats with the court and were sworn in; they were subject to challenge, were present during the trial, were permitted to take part in discussions on interlocutory questions, but not to vote thereon, and retired—if not previously become full members—when the court was finally cleared to deliberate upon its findings and sentence.² This practice, however, had no statutory sanction, and, in substantially adding members to the court, limited indeed but material powers to the maximum of thirteen, was in fact in contravention of the Article of war. It has long been disused in our service for some forty years,³ though in the British Army it still subsists in a different form.⁴

1. See O'Brien, 228. The early case of *Mills v. Martin*, 19 John. (1821,) is, in effect, *contra*. But the provision under consideration was not then received the interpretation subsequently given it in *Malott v. Mott*.

2. See De Hart, 88; Macomb, 15; O'Brien, 226; Benét, 28; Coppée, 46, 54. Supernumeraries are constantly detailed with general courts in the early Orders of the War Department, &c., especially from 1809 to 1836. In each of the cases of *Gens. Hull, Wilkinson and C.* three supernumerary members were named in the original orders. Supernumeraries were also detailed in the navy, and for courts of less than thirteen members. See I Opins. At. Gen., 698.

3. The paragraph, (§ 237,) of the Army Regulations of 1841, concerning the detailing of "one or more supernumeraries" with courts of thirteen members, does not appear to have been repeated in any subsequent issue. A comparatively recent, though isolated case, is put in G. O. 9, Dept. of the Mo., 1862, of a general court attended by a supernumerary, who, upon a vacancy occurring on the trial of an officer, took a seat as a member.

4. The British law authorizes the convening authority to detail with the regular members, "such *waiting officers* as he thinks expedient, with a view "to provide for casualties or for the case of challenges being allowed." Rules of Procedure, § 17 (D,) 25 (G;) Simmons, § 42

CHAPTER VIII.

THE JURISDICTION OF GENERAL COURTS-MARTIAL.

The subject of the jurisdiction of general courts-martial will be considered under the following heads:—

- I. The Place or field over which such jurisdiction extends or within which it may be exercised;
- II. The period of Time to which its exercise is limited;
- III. The Persons who are subject to it;
- IV. The Offences which it embraces.

I. THE PLACE OR FIELD OF JURISDICTION.

It includes the entire United States. The jurisdiction of general courts-martial is coextensive with the territory of the United States. That is to say, a general court assembled at any locality within that territory may legally take cognizance of an offence committed at any *other* such locality whatever; such a court, unlike a civil tribunal, not being restricted in the exercise of its authority to the limits of a particular State or other district or region. While it will in general be more for the interest and convenience of the service to bring an accused officer or soldier to trial at or near the place of his offence, he may, with equal *legality* be tried by a court convened, (by competent authority,) in any other part of the United States.¹ This is a general principle, nor is its application limited to cases in which the court is convened by a commander whose command is conterminous with the federal domain—as the President as Commander-in-chief, or the general commanding the army. A court ordered by a department commander within his department, for the trial of an officer or soldier of his command, may take cognizance of the case though the offence or offences may have been committed in any other department or departments. It may be added that the

1. See DIGEST, 207.

question, whether an offence was or not committed at a place over which exclusive jurisdiction has been reserved or ceded to the United States, can affect in no respect the jurisdiction of the *military* court before which such offence is brought for trial.¹

Extends to Region of Military Occupation in War. Further, such jurisdiction extends to the places or territory held or occupied by our armies when invading the domain of a foreign nation with which we are at war. A court-martial, whether assembled in the foreign territory or in the United States, will have jurisdiction of military offences committed within such places equally as if committed on our own soil.²

Effect of Principle of Extraterritoriality. Such jurisdiction extends also to offences committed by our officers or soldiers within the lines or in the neighborhood of our armies, while in the transit, by the permission of its government, through the domain of a foreign nation with which we are at peace. This is on the principle of international law known as "extraterritoriality," under which when the armies of one nation are privileged to enter or pass through the territory of another friendly nation, the laws of the former are deemed to continue to apply to its forces equally as if the same were within their own country. Such, for example, would be the legal status of our troops when permitted by the government of Mexico to cross the frontier carrying on hostilities against Indians.⁴

1. As to this question, as affecting the jurisdiction of *civil* courts, *DIGEST*—"Cession of Jurisdiction," pp. 141-144, and authorities cited also PART III, *post*.

2. "Wherever our army or navy may go beyond our territorial limits, neither can go beyond the authority of the President or the legislation of Congress." Chase C. J., in *Ex parte Milligan*, 4 Wallace, 1 And see 5 Opins. At. Gen., 58; *Coleman v. Tennessee*, 97 U. S. 516. In the latter case the law was applied to offences committed by soldiers of our army when in occupation of insurrectionary districts during the late war, and it was held that, (as in the case of an army lawfully marching through the territory of a foreign country—see *post*,) the army was then exempt from amenability to the local courts and subject only to the jurisdiction of its own military tribunals.

3. "This privilege is extended to armies in their permitted transit through foreign territory," and includes the right "of exercising military discipline on the officers and soldiers." * * * "When the transit of troops is allowed, it is apt to be specially guarded by treaties." *Woolfe Int. Law*, 64; *Vattel*, III, 7 § 130. And see *The Exchange*, 7 Cranf. 139; *Coleman v. Tennessee*, 97 U. S., 515.

4. Since the above was written, a formal agreement has in fact been

Cases of Offences committed in Friendly Foreign Territory, entered without Authority. A status less clearly defined in law is that of our military forces when induced, in pursuit of Indians or marauders or for other purposes, to enter the territory of a foreign power with which we are at peace, *without its authority*. While such an entry of an armed body would be *per se* unlawful,¹ it is nevertheless the opinion of the author that military offences committed by any of such forces on the foreign soil would properly be cognizable by courts-martial convened within the United States, provided the offender at the time of the offence was a member of an organized detachment or other force under military command and discipline. For while a refusal to cross the boundary under the circumstances might not constitute a disobedience of a "lawful command" in violation of the 21st article of war, it does not follow that an act of insubordination, neglect, or disorder, after the passing of the frontier in obedience

entered into between the governments of the United States and Mexico, stipulating for "the reciprocal crossing in the unpopulated or desert parts of the international boundary line, by the regular federal troops of the respective governments, in pursuit of savage hostile Indians." This agreement, originally made in July, 1882, to continue in effect for one year, has been since twice renewed, and under the last renewal will remain in force till Oct. 31, 1885. See G. O. 91, 118, of 1882; Do. 57 of 1883; Do. 128 of 1884. Of this agreement the only portion that need be cited in this connection is the following: "ART. VI. The abuses which may be committed by the forces which cross into the territory of the other nation shall be punished by the government to which the forces belong, according to the gravity of the offence and in conformity to its laws, as if the abuses had been committed in its own territory, the said government being further under obligation to withdraw the guilty parties from the frontier."

1. It would, in the first instance, be unlawful for any subordinate commander to direct such an invasion or command the invading party, except under orders emanating from the highest authority. In *Com. v. Blodgett*, 12 Met. 84, 90, the court say:—"Nothing but the sovereign power of the State, by a previous order directing such invasion, or by a subsequent ratification when done in its name, will warrant such invasion, and excuse the subordinates engaged in it. * * * Such act is a high prerogative of sovereignty and the necessity of it must be judged of, and the warrant for it must be given, by the express command or direction of the sovereign authority." Note, in this connection, G. O. 97 and 100, Dept. of the East, 1864. In the former, military commanders near the Canadian boundary were instructed by General Dix to cross the same where necessary in pursuit of marauders, and pursue, capture and bring them within the United States for trial and punishment. In the latter, it was announced that this instruction had been *disapproved* by the President and was accordingly revoked.

to orders, would not be cognizable and punishable as a military offence equally as if committed within our own territory.¹ If an offence committed by a soldier on foreign soil, when not then in a military capacity—as when he is there as a deserter—would in general be an offence only against the laws of such nation, at least not one against the laws of the United States, and so not within the jurisdiction of a court-martial.²

II. THE TIME WITHIN WHICH JURISDICTION IS TO BE EXERCISED.

As affected by the Limitation of Art. 103. If the jurisdiction of a general court-martial can properly be regarded as controlled in its exercise by any general rule of limitation as to time, such general rule is that prescribed in the 103d Article of War, as follows:—“*No person shall be liable to be tried and punished by a general court-martial for any offence which appears to have been committed more than two years before the issuing of an order for such trial, unless, by reason of having absented himself or of some other manifest impediment, he shall not have been amenable to justice within that period.*”

But the question here arises whether this Article is to be viewed

1. See DIGEST, 207, 208. In the case of Pvt. Joseph Lee, convicted by a general court-martial in Texas of manslaughter, consisting in the homicide of a sergeant of the detachment while on a scout within Mexico,—in which the proceedings and sentence were approved by General Ord in G. C. M. O. 17, Dept. of Texas, 1877,—it was held by the Secretary of War, June 23, 1877, that the court had jurisdiction of the case. *Contra*, see G. C. M. O. 35, Dept. of the Missouri, 1872, where it was held that an offence—insubordination and disrespectful conduct to a commanding officer—committed by a soldier while on a scout within Mexican territory, could not legally be taken cognizance of by a court-martial subsequently convened in New Mexico, on the ground that the command was in the foreign country without authority of law.

2. See DIGEST, 207–8. In G. O. 119, War Dept., 1863, an officer of volunteers is dismissed by the President “for violation of the sovereignty of a friendly foreign State, in arresting a deserter from the U. S. forces and bringing him away from within the boundaries of Canada.”

In this connection, the student may desire to consult the authorities on the disputed question, whether a State court has jurisdiction of *larceny* committed in a foreign country where the property stolen was brought within such State—a question decided in the affirmative in *State v. Bartlett*, 11 Vt. 650, and *State v. Underwood*, 49 Maine, 1 and, upon what is regarded by the author as sounder reasoning, in the negative, in *Com. v. Uprichard*, 3 Gray, (Mass.), 440.

as a prohibitory restriction upon *jurisdiction*, or merely as providing a *defence* to be taken advantage of by special plea.

View of Attorney General Wirt. It was held at an early date, (1820,) by Mr. Wirt,¹ in construing this Article, that the limitation thereby prescribed was *absolute* in all cases and could not be *waived*. The reason assigned for this opinion was in effect that the Article was an enactment based upon considerations of *public policy*, being intended not solely for the benefit of the accused but to secure that prompt and certain prosecution of military offences which is essential to maintain the discipline of the service; and that therefore it was to be regarded as prohibitory not only upon the United States but upon the accused also. The view of Mr. Wirt, that the limitation was not waivable, has been affirmed by later Attorneys General,² and in the practice of the army has been long recognized as a rule of law to which no exceptions could be admitted.³ And it has been held by the Judge Advocate General,⁴ and subsequently by the Attorney General,⁵ that an accused could not, by a *plea of guilty* at the trial, any more than by previously requesting,⁶ or by consenting without objection, to be tried, waive the limitation and withdraw the case from the application of the Article, where it appeared from the charge that the offence had been committed more than two years before the ordering of the court.

Ruling of the U. S. Circuit Court. If this view as to the effect of the Article is the correct one, the subject of the limitation is properly to be considered in the present Chapter. But though this view was apparently that taken by the U. S. District Court for the Southern Dist. of New York, in 1880, in Davison's

1. 1 Opins., 383. Compare this view with the converse view expressed by him, in 1 Opins., 233, as to the waiver of the benefit of the provision of Art. 102, a point heretofore remarked upon in Chapter XVI—"Waiver of the right to plead former trial."

2. VI Opins. At. Gen. 239; XIII Id., 463; XIV Id., 267-8; XVI Id., 173.

3. See the opinion, as adopted by the Secretary of War, of Judge Advocate General Holt, in the case of Brig. Gen. Dyer, Chief of Ordnance. Proceedings of Court of Inquiry, Part II, pp. 612-614.

4. DIGEST, 86.

5. XVI Opins. 170.

6. See Gen. Dyer's Case, *ante*.

case,¹ the judgment in that case was, in 1884, reversed on appeal in the U. S. Circuit Court, Second Circuit,² where it was in substance held that the limitation of Art. 103 was not a jurisdictional objection but a "matter of defence;" the court adopting the ruling which had been made at San Francisco the previous year, in *White's Case*,³ by the Circuit Court for the Ninth Circuit. In these cases the courts, in effect though in terms, overrule Mr. Wirt's opinion, and treat the military restrictions of limitations as the United States' and State statutes of limitations relating to crimes are ordinarily treated, *viz.* not as a restriction upon the powers of the court but as a provision made for mainly for the benefit of the accused, which can be taken to the advantage of only by plea.

In deference to these recent rulings of high authority, the subject of the application and operation of the provisions of Art. 103 which had formed part of the present Chapter, has been incorporated in Chapter XVI, on PLEAS and MOTIONS.

As affected by the Continuance of War. While the termination of a state of war does not, as such, affect the jurisdiction of a court-martial, as it does that of a military commission or tribunal whose action is determined by the existence and continuance of war—there are yet cases in which, by the express terms of a statute, or by implication from its terms, the jurisdiction of a court-martial over certain specific offences is restricted to the period of war. Thus the 58th Article of the Code expressly makes the offences therein enumerated punishable by sentence of general court-martial only in time of war, rebellion, &c., and if in any case the war which prevailed at the commission of the offence has ended⁴ before the same is actually brought to trial, the court will not be legally competent to take cognizance thereof under this Article. Similarly, it has been held in *Sec. 1343, Rev. Sts.*, relating to the offence of the spy, initially limits the trial by court-martial of a spy to the period of the duration of the war, &c., so that if not brought to trial before the war is terminated, he cannot be tried at all.⁵

1. *In re Davison*, 4 Fed. Rep. 507.

2. 21 Fed. Rep. 618.

3. *In re White*, 9 Sawyer, 49, before Field and Sawyer, JJ.

4. As to what constitutes a legal termination of a state of war, see Chapter XXV—FIFTY-EIGHTH ARTICLE.

5. *In re Martin*, 45 Barb. 142; Wells on Jurisdiction, 577.

The term "*war*," as employed here and elsewhere in this treatise, is to be understood as including not only foreign or international war, but also civil war, as well as a state of active hostilities with an Indian tribe.

III. THE PERSONS SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION.

Classification. General courts-martial, created and empowered as they are by express statute, can exercise jurisdiction over such persons and offences only as are constitutionally brought by statute within their cognizance. By the articles of war and other statutes certain classes of persons are rendered, or declared to be, amenable to the jurisdiction of courts-martial as follows:—I. The Army of the United States; II. The militia when called into the service of the United States; III. Officers and soldiers of Marines when detached for service with the Army; IV. Certain civilians subjected to military discipline in time of war; V. Certain other civilians.

I. THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES.¹

In this designation are embraced the following:—1. The Standing or "Regular" army; 2. Volunteers; 3. Drafted men.

1. The Regular Army. The constituents of this army are the officers, soldiers and others specified in Sec. 1094, Rev. Sts., *viz.*: certain general officers and their aids, certain officers and enlisted men of the staff departments and of the enumerated regiments of artillery, cavalry and infantry, a force of enlisted Indian scouts, the corps of professors and cadets² of the Military Academy, and the officers and enlisted men of the retired list.³ These members of the regular army of whatever grade are all military persons: there exists no longer in our service what was once styled

1. The President, though commander-in-chief, is not a part of the army or a military person. In *Parker v. Kaughman*, 34 Ga. 136, it was held that the President of the "Confederate States," being commander-in-chief, was "in the army;" but this was probably a misconception.

2. That Cadets have always been a part of the Army, see *Morton v. U. S.*, 112 U. S., 4.

3. That retired officers are a part of the army and so triable by court-martial,—a fact indeed never admitting of question,—is adjudged in *Tyler v. U. S.*, 16 Ct. Cl. 223; *Id.*, 105 U. S., 244; *Runkle v. U. S.*, 9 Ct. Cl. 396. By the recent Act of Feb. 14, 1885, enlisted men of the army and marine corps were made eligible to retirement after thirty years' service.

the "civil branch" of the army. Our surgeons, paymasters, chaplains, storekeepers, &c., are all now commissioned officers in the same manner as are the officers of the line, and, whether not having commands, are, equally with the latter, military officers. The professors of the Academy, though without rank, as indicated in the foregoing Chapter, commissioned officers; even the cadets, whose status was for a long period not clearly defined,¹ are now held to be 'inferior officers appointed though not commissioned.'²

In time of *peace*, the "regular" army ordinarily constitutes the entire Army of the United States.

2. Volunteers. In time of war the regular contingent commonly has been supplemented by a force of volunteer troops. At the late war indeed the volunteers composed by far the greater portion of our army. Though in some particulars of its organization assimilated to the militia, this force is in fact as well in law quite distinct therefrom. Originated under the constitutional power "to raise armies," not under the power "to provide for calling forth the militia," it is also distinguished from the militia in the persons composing it, in the period of their service, and in the duties upon which they may be employed. The militia is composed of citizens between 18 and 45 years of age (Rev. Sts., Sec. 1625,) their term of service cannot exceed 9 months, (Id., Sec. 1648,) and they cannot be used for the invasion of a foreign country or for military service abroad.³ The employment of volunteers is not limited by any of these restrictions. That this force, though differing from the regulars in that it is resorted to for a temporary purpose,⁴ is, equally with the latter, a part of the *armies of the United States*, has, (as indicated in the last Chapter,) been expressly held and adjudged.⁵

1. As to the status of the Cadets as viewed by the Attys. Gen. see I Opins. 276, 469; II Id. 251; VII Id. 323; XVI Id. 611. They are liable to trial by court-martial, (as well as by general,) court-martial was held by Wirt, (I Opins. 469,) and affirmed by Cushing (VII Id. 323.)

2. *Babbitt v. U. S.*, 16 Ct. Cl. 202.

3. *McCall's Case*, 5 Philad. 259.

4. VII. Opins. At. Gen., 621.

5. *Burroughs v. Peyton*, 16 Grat. 483; *Kerr v. Jones*, 19 Ind. 151; *Wantlan v. White*, Id. 470; DIGEST, 60, 424, 478. And see III C. At. Gen. 696; VI Id. 484; VII Id. 621.

3. Drafted Men. Through the necessities of the government there came to be added, during the recent war, to the Army of the United States a further body of *drafted men*, who entered the military service not as volunteers but compulsorily under the provisions of the Act of March 3, 1863, c. 75, and the succeeding statutes in amendment, &c., of the same. Owing to the defects in the operation of the existing militia systems of the States,¹ and to the fact that the *materiel* of the militia was limited to citizens,² the measure of adding to the military strength of the country by calling out the militia had, notwithstanding the authority to enrol this force conferred upon the President by the Act of July 17, 1862, proved quite inadequate to the emergencies of the period. The Act of 1863 was therefore passed by which all able-bodied citizens of the United States and all aliens who had declared their intention to become citizens, between the ages of twenty and forty-five years, were constituted "national forces," and required to be enrolled subject to draft by the United States authorities. This Act did not repeal that of 1862, but being "more matured in its details than any system that could have been organized for the militia" under the other,³ as well as more efficient and comprehensive in its operation, was resorted to almost exclusively in lieu of the former statute.⁴ The Act of 1863 and the system thereby inaugurated have received an especially careful examination in *McCall's Case*⁵ and the leading case of *Kneedler v. Lane*,⁶ in which the Act was held to be a constitutional exercise of the power of Congress "to raise armies," and the troops raised by draft under the machinery which it provided were held to constitute a part of the armies of the United States.⁷ As such they were of course subject to trial by court-martial.⁸

1. *McCall's Case*, 5 Philad. 267. It was anticipated by Hamilton in the *Federalist*, (p. 117,) that the militia could not be depended upon as an adequate force for war. And see *Com. v. Barker*, 5 Bin. 429; *U. S. v. Blakeney*, 3 Gratt. 417.

2. VI Opins. At. Gen., 484.

3. *McCall's Case*, 5 Philad. 268.

4. Subsequently to its passage there was but one call for militia, (limited to four States),—that by proclamation of June 15, 1863.

5. 5 Philad. 259.

6. 45 Pa. St. 238.

7. That conscripts are not militia but a part of the Army, see also *Jurroughs v. Peyton*, 16 Gratt. 483; *Cooley*, *Prins. Const. Law*, 89.

8. Instances of "drafted men," tried as such by general court-mar-

General Provision of Sec. 1342, Rev. Sts. Thus defines the Army of the United States, whether composed solely—in time of peace—of the regular army, or—as in time of war—this and one or both of the other contingents named, is, in whole, made subject to the jurisdiction of courts-martial by this Section, which, in prefacing the military code, declares: “armies of the United States shall be governed by the following rules and articles.” Certain particular classes—as the regular officers, by Sec. 1256, Rev. Sts.—are made specifically so subject but such provisions are unnecessary in view of this general enactment.

The opinion once expressed by Atty. Gen. Wirt,¹ to the effect that no military persons or forces could properly be treated as subject to the articles of war, unless so subjected in specific terms by the separate statute making them a part of the army or covered by a specific provision, if ever sound, certainly cannot now be maintained in view of the comprehensive terms of Sec. 1342. And whenever any addition is made to the army, the person or force added will, without any such express provision in the statute, once come within the general application of this Section, and thenceforth subject to the military jurisdiction.

Beginning and End of the Personal Amenability. **General Rule.** Here, as especially applicable to officers and soldiers of the army proper, may suitably be considered the subject of the duration or continuance of the amenability of the person to the military jurisdiction.

It is the *general rule* that the person is amenable to the military jurisdiction only during the period of his service as an officer or soldier. Thus, in the case of an *officer*, the jurisdiction commences with the acceptance of his appointment or commission

tial, for desertion in failing to report under the draft, &c., are especially frequent in the G. O. of the Depts. of the East, of Pennsylvania, the Susquehanna and the Monongahela, and of the Middle Dept., 1863 to 1865.

1. I Opins., 277-9.

2. In the case of an officer appointed during a recess of the Senate but whose appointment is not subsequently acted upon and confirmed thereby, the amenability continues from his acceptance of his appointment to the last day of the session of the Senate next succeeding (Const., Art. II, secs. 2 & 3; IV Opins. At. Gen. 30.) The appointment, however, of an officer appointed during a recess may be received by the President without being submitted to the Senate, (VIII C

or where originally appointed by State authority, with his muster, (or re-appointment,) into the service of the United States, and ends with his death, the acceptance of his resignation, his dismissal,¹ &c., or—if a volunteer officer—his discharge or muster-out, &c.: in the case of a *soldier*, it begins with his enlistment² or muster into the service, and ends with his discharge or muster-out.³ In other words, the general rule is that *military persons*—officers and enlisted men—are subject to the military jurisdiction, so long only as they remain such; that when, in any of the recognized legal modes of separation from the service, they cease to be military and become *civil persons*, such jurisdiction can, constitutionally, no more be exercised over them than it could before they originally entered the army.⁴

Jurisdiction after end of Term of Service but before Discharge. While the soldier, since he cannot discharge himself, is in general entitled at the expiration of his term of enlist-

380.) and the appointment of any officer may be withdrawn after it has been submitted to the Senate, but before it is finally acted upon. In such cases the jurisdiction would cease with the recall or withdrawal.

1. The early English ruling in *Sackville's Case*, (1760,) to the effect that an officer, after having been dismissed the service and become a civilian, could, at his own request or with his consent, legally be brought to trial by a general court-martial, has not been followed in the later English law, and has never been adopted in our own. (See DIGEST, 209.) In our practice no trial of a dismissed officer has ever been had, except by the authority of some express statute hereafter to be considered.

An officer who has been dropped from the rolls for desertion under Sec. 1229, Rev. Sts., is assimilated to a dismissed officer in that he cannot thereafter be made amenable to trial by court-martial. See G. C. M. O. 16, War Dept., 1871.

2. It should be noted that it is not necessary that the enlistment be a formal one, but that receipt of pay, performance of service as a soldier, &c., may be equivalent to, or constitute evidence of enlistment. See DIGEST, 248-9; *Grant v. Gould*, 2 H. Black. 69; Tytler, 111; Prendergast, 39; Clode, M. L., 93; also, *post*, chapter XXV—FORTY-SEVENTH ARTICLE.

3. The discharge must of course be due and legal, not fraudulent. See DIGEST, 232; XVI Opins. At. Gen., 349.

4. DIGEST, 208, 209, 211. And see the principle, that the jurisdiction ends with the discharge—whether honorable or under a sentence—recognized in the following General Orders: G. C. M. O. 4, 16, War Dept., 1871; G. O. 42, Dept. of the East, 1865; Do. 43, Middle Dept., 1865; Do. 90, Dept. of Pa., 1865; Do. 101, Dept. of Va., 1865; Do. 22, Dept. of the Mo., 1866; Do. 23, Dept. of Dakota, 1871; Do. 55, Dept. of Cal., 1873; and in V Opins. At. Gen. 58-9.

ment to be forthwith discharged in the form and by the authority prescribed by the 4th article of war,¹ there are yet cases where, for offences previously committed, he may be held for trial by court-martial for a period after his term is completed, his right of discharge being meanwhile suspended. These cases are as follows:

1. Cases of deserters under Art. 48. This article, in providing that—"Every soldier who deserts the service of the United States shall be liable to serve for such period as shall, with the time he may have served previous to his desertion, amount to the full term of his enlistment," goes on to declare—"and such soldier shall be tried by a court-martial and punished, although the term of his enlistment may have elapsed previous to his being apprehended and tried." The effect of this article is to continue the jurisdiction of a general court-martial over a *deserter*, without regard to the duration of his term of enlistment, provided of course the statutory limitation of Art. 103 has not taken effect.

It need hardly be added that here, as in other cases of soldiers liable to trial, the Government may by its own act, *i. e.* by a formal discharge of the soldier, terminate his amenability under the article.²

2. Deserters illegally enlisted. It has been ruled in a series of adjudged cases³ that, even if an enlistment be voidable for illegality, (as in the instance of a minor enlisted under the legal age,) so that the soldier or his parent or guardian would be entitled to, or properly granted, his discharge if duly applied for, yet if, after the enlistment, he *deserts*, he may, upon arrest, be held, tried and punished for his offence, and an application for his discharge made to the Secretary of War, or on *habeas corpus* to a U. S. court, will not properly be granted. In such cases the military jurisdiction is sustained for the reason that the interest of the public in the administration of justice and maintenance of military discipline is paramount to the right of the individual.

1. DIGEST, 2. And see U. S. v. Travers, 2 Wheeler, C. C. 509, (Story J.); Prendergast, 42; also, *post*, Chapter XXV—FOURTH ARTICLE.

2. DIGEST, 23, 209.

3. Com. v. Gamble, 11 S. & R. 93; McConologue's Case, 107 Mass. 170; In matter of Beswick, 25 How. Pr. 149; *Ex parte Anderson*, 16 Iowa, 599.

3. Offenders in general—Attaching of jurisdiction. It has further been held, and is now settled law, in regard to military offenders in general, that if the military jurisdiction has once duly *attached* to them previous to the date of the termination of their legal period of service, they may be brought to trial by court-martial after that date, their discharge being meanwhile withheld. This principle has mostly been applied to cases where the offence was committed just prior to the end of the term. In such cases the interests of discipline clearly forbid that the offender should go unpunished. It is held therefore that if before the day on which his service legally terminates and his right to a discharge is complete, proceedings with a view to trial are commenced against him,—as by an arrest or the service of charges,—the military jurisdiction will fully attach, and once attached may be continued by a trial by court-martial ordered and held after the end of the term of the enlistment of the accused. The leading adjudication on this point is that of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts in *In re Walker*,¹ (1830,)—a case of a seaman in the navy, but the ruling in which is equally applicable to soldiers of the army. Here the court, in adverting to the injurious results that might ensue were such a person permitted to be guilty with impunity of grave offences on the last days of his engagement, adds:—“It is true that a seaman is not bound to do service after the expiration of his term of enlistment. But within that term he is bound to observe the rules and regulations provided by law for the government of the navy, and is punishable for all crimes and offences committed in violation of them during his term of service. * * * In this case the petitioner was arrested or put in confinement, and charges were preferred against him to the Secretary of the Navy, before the expiration of the time of his enlistment; and this was clearly a sufficient commencement of the prosecution to authorize a court-martial to proceed to trial and sentence, notwithstanding the time of service had expired before the court-martial had been convened.” This case, since affirmed in principle by other rulings,² has always been regarded as controlling authority in the military practice.

1. 3 Am. Jur. 281. And see *DIGEST*, 210.

2. See *U. S. v. Travers*, 2 *Wheeler*, C. C. 509; In the matter of Dew, 25 *Law Rep.*, 540; *In re Bird*, 2 *Sawyer*, 33; *Barrett v. Hopkins*, 2 *McCrary*, 129.

Jurisdiction during Absence on Leave or as a Prisoner of War. Here should be noticed a class of cases in which an officer or soldier, though fully in the service, is, in a measure, not subject to the military jurisdiction.

Thus, when an officer or soldier is duly absent from his post or station upon a leave of absence or furlough, he ceases for the time to be subject to the orders of his commander,¹ or indeed to any orders except—in the event of some public emergency or grave occasion justifying it—an order discontinuing his leave and directing him to return to his regiment, &c., or otherwise disposing of him as the public interest may require. During the pendency of his leave, therefore, he cannot well be guilty of a breach of the discipline of the command from which he is absent, or of a neglect of duty, or disobedience of orders, (except as above indicated,) or mutiny, or subject to a military trial therefor.² So, if he commit a crime or offence against the laws of the land, he will not properly be triable for the same by a military tribunal, but will be amenable therefor to the civil authorities in the first instance and without any previous application by them to a military commander for the surrender of his person under the 59th article of war.³ But for an act, not of insubordination to command or in neglect or violation of orders, but unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, or to the dishonor of the military service in general, as well as for an offence of the class specified in the 60th article of war, an officer or soldier, though on leave at the time, may in general legally be held subject to military jurisdiction and trial.

So a *prisoner of war* in the hands of the enemy, while not in general subject to command or answerable for a disobedience of an order, may become amenable to trial by court-martial for disorder—such, for example, as an indulgence in grossly con-

1. "Out of command and out of service are different things in a military sense. An officer on furlough is out of command, absent from the army," though "not out of the service." Cushing, VI Opins. 252 'An officer on leave has, for the time being, no post or duty.' XIII Id 527. And see the recognition of the difference between the status of being on duty and that of being on furlough or leave of absence—in J. R. of April 12, 1866.

2. DIGEST, 10, 215-6. He may of course commit and become amenable for a *desertion*, an offence not unfrequently committed by soldiers when on furlough.

3. *Ex parte* McRoberts, 16 Iowa, 603; G. O. 29, Dept. of the Northwest, 1864; DIGEST, 31.

tumelious language¹ or injurious conduct toward another officer in the same status.²

Exceptions to the General Rule—Amenability after Discharge. To the general rule above indicated, that the military jurisdiction ends with the discharge, &c., of the officer or soldier, there are several *exceptions*, created by or held to result from certain express statutory provisions. These statutes are the Sixtieth Article of war, and Secs. 1230, 1361, 4824, and 4835, Rev. Sts.

The Sixtieth Article. This Article, which is a statute for the punishment of certain frauds, embezzlement and conversion of public property, &c., when committed by military persons, after defining the offences to which it relates, concludes as follows:—“*And if any person, being guilty of any of the offences aforesaid, while in the military service of the United States, receives his discharge, or is dismissed from the service, he shall continue to be liable to be arrested and held for trial and sentence by a court-martial, in the same manner and to the same extent as if he had not received such discharge nor been dismissed.*”

A similar article is contained in the naval code, the original of the statute being a general enactment of March 2, 1863, in terms applicable to army, navy and civilians alike.³

The amenability to prosecution and trial created by this provision is not unlimited as to time, but is subject to the restriction imposed by Art. 103.⁴ Instances of trials ordered under it have been unfrequent in practice.⁵

Sec. 1230, Rev. Sts. This section, under which an officer once dismissed by order of the President may be allowed a trial

1. See an instance in G. C. M. O. 425, War Dept., 1865, of an officer convicted of an offence of this character committed while held as a prisoner of war at Danville, Va.

2. It need hardly be added that a prisoner of war *on parole* is subject to the military jurisdiction for such military offences as, under the terms or circumstances of his parole, he may be called to account for.

3. See Secs. 5438, 5439, Rev. Sts. The 60th Art. is treated of in Chapter XXV.

4. See Chapter XVI.

5. Cases of such trials are to be found in G. C. M. O. 16, War Dept., 1871; G. O. 35, Div. West Miss., 1865; Do. 22, Dept. of the Mo., 1866; Do. 13, Dept. of the South, 1867; also in G. O. 143, Navy Dept., 1869.

by court-martial for the offence for which he was dismissed, has already been considered, in Chapter VI, in treating of the authority of the President to convene courts-martial. As has been seen, it is a provision originally enacted in time of war, and which, under the existing law, applies only to cases arising in war.

Sec. 1361, Rev. Sts. By this statute a further exception to the above general rule has been in effect created in cases of soldiers confined in the Military Prison at Leavenworth, Kansas, under sentences which imposed dishonorable discharge in connection with confinement, and who accordingly have been formally discharged in fact, prior to being imprisoned. The section provides that all persons confined under sentence in said prison "shall be liable to trial and punishment by courts-martial under the rules and articles of war for offences committed during the said confinement." It applies only to the particular place of confinement mentioned—has no application, for example, to the prison at Alcatraz Island, California.¹ Trials of discharged soldiers under confinement have been had from time to time under this provision; the accused, who are really *civilians*, being designated in the proceedings as "military convict," or "military prisoner."²

Secs. 4824 and 4835, Rev. Sts. By the former of these statutes the inmates of the "Soldiers' Home," who are mostly discharged soldiers of the army, are made "subject to the rule and articles of war in the same manner as soldiers in the army." By the latter, the inmates of the "National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers," who are all discharged officers or soldiers or volunteers employed during the late war, are made similarly subject "in the same manner as if they were in the army." In practice, however, courts-martial are not resorted to for the discipline of these classes of persons.³

1. DIGEST, 213; G. C. M. O. 4, War Dept., 1871; Do. 55, Dept. of Cal., 1873.

2. See cases of such trials in G. C. M. O. 92, Dept. of the Mo., 1871; Do. 3, Id., 1878; Do. 28, Id., 1880; Do. 96, 168, Id., 1882; Do. 1, 11, 24, 30, 46, 61, Id., 1883; Do. 5, 14, 19, 35, 40, 44, 58, Id., 1883; Do. 3, 5, 1885. In the first mentioned order is included the case of Wildman commented upon in DIGEST, 212-3, note.

3. But one trial is known to have ever been had. See DIGEST, 21

The five statutes here specified will be recurred to later in this Chapter, and the question of their *constitutionality* considered.

Jurisdiction after a Second Appointment or Enlistment. It remains to refer to the effect, *per se*, of a subsequent appointment or enlistment of an officer or soldier, (once duly dismissed, resigned, &c., or discharged,) upon his amenability to trial for an offence committed prior to such discharge, &c., (and within two years,) but not yet made the subject of a charge or trial. Upon this point there is not known to have been any adjudication. Putting out of the question the class of offences, the amenability for which is expressly defined by the 60th article, it is the opinion of the author that, in separating in any legal form from the service an officer or soldier or consenting to his separation therefrom, and remanding him to the civil status at which the military jurisdiction properly terminates, the United States, (while it may of course continue to hold him liable for a pecuniary deficit,) must be deemed in law to waive the right to prosecute him before a court-martial for an offence previously committed but not brought to trial. In this view, a subsequent re-appointment or re-enlistment into the army would not revive the jurisdiction for past offences, but the same would properly be considered as finally lapsed.¹

Jurisdiction as Affected by Amenability to Civil Proceedings. That the offender may be amenable to a criminal court of the United States or of a State, by reason of such court having concurrent jurisdiction of his offence, or jurisdiction of a civil offence involved in the act committed, cannot affect the exercise of jurisdiction by the court-martial. This principle and its converse—that liability to trial by court-martial does not affect the liability of the party to civil trial or suit, for a civil offence or cause of action involved in the act—were first fully impressed upon the army by the cases (of homicide) of Capt. Howe and Asst. Surgeon Steiner,² and have been abundantly illustrated in subsequent rulings and Orders.³ Where indeed the civil juris-

1. See DIGEST, 209.

2. G. O. 25 of 1840; VI Opins. At. Gen. 413, 506; VIII Id. 328.

3. G. C. M. O. 20 of 1869; Do. 50, Dept. of the Mo., 1871; G. O. 78, Dept. of the East, 1869; Do. 69, Id., 1870; Do. 52, Dept. of the Pacific, 1865; *Ex parte* McRoberts, 16 Iowa, 606; U. S. v. Carr, 1 Woods, 386; *Ex parte* Mason, 105 U. S., 699; U. S. v. Cashiel, 1 Hughes, 552; State

diction is the first to be initiated, the *court-martial* cannot properly take cognizance of the military offence till the party is wholly discharged from the civil proceeding ;¹ but its jurisdiction remains unimpaired, and may be freely exercised at the proper time, whether the accused may have been acquitted or convicted by the civil court.

The subject of double amenability and jurisdiction will be recurred to in another part of the work.²

II. THE MILITIA WHEN CALLED INTO THE SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES.

Occasions of Amenability. Under the subject of the Composition of General Courts-Martial, we have seen what the militia is, and have referred to the series of statutes regulating its organization, service, &c. It remains to consider when and how officers and soldiers of the militia become amenable to the jurisdiction of courts-martial of the United States.

The statute law and the judicial decisions recognize two occasions upon which this amenability attaches, viz. (1) when the militia, being actually employed in the federal service, "in time of war or public danger,"³ commit military offences; and (2) when they commit the offence of refusing to be so employed. There is a marked distinction between the two instances, from the fact that in the one the militia are a part of the military forces of the United States and subject to the articles of war, while in the other they are no part of such forces and not so subject.

v. Rankin, 4 Cold. 145; *State v. Rogers*, 37 Mo. 367; *In re O'Connor*, 37 Wisc. 379. And compare cases, of double amenability to Federal and State jurisdiction for the same act, of *Moore v. Illinois*, 14 Howard, 13; *Ex parte Robinson*, 6 McLean, 355; also cases of similar amenability for contempts—as *Gen. Houston's case*, 11 Opins. At. Gen. 655; *State v. Yancey*, 1 No. Ca. Law Rep. 519.

1. 111 Opins. At. Gen. 460. In the case of *In re Wall*, 8 Fed. Rep., 85, a soldier was tried and sentenced by a court-martial while in the constructive custody of the U. S. District Court, under a writ of *habeas corpus*; the officer who had him in charge not thinking it worth while to inform the court-martial that the civil proceedings were pending. "This conduct," observes the District Judge, "was highly reprehensible." In *Capt. Howe's case*, (*ante*,) the action of the court-martial was suspended for more than two years, while the civil proceedings against the accused were pending.

2. See Chapter XVI—"Plea of Former Trial"; also PART III.

3. Constitution, Vth Amendment.

Amenability when in the U. S. Service. The Constitution, as we have seen, empowers Congress to "provide for arming such part" of the militia "as may be employed in the service of the United States." The Act of Feb. 28, 1795, in execution of this power, provided, (sec. 4,) "*that the militia employed in the service of the United States shall be subject to the same rules and articles of war as the troops of the United States,*" and this provision, repeated in substance in the Act of July 29, 1795, is now embraced in Sec. 1644 of the Revised Statutes and the 64th article of war. The question as to when the militia could be regarded as legally in the employment of the United States was, at an early period, (1820,) settled by the Supreme Court in the leading case of *Houston v. Moore*,¹ in which, (with reference to the war of 1812,) it was held that the mere calling forth did not constitute an employment of the militia in the public service, and that they did not become "so employed" until their arrival at the place of rendezvous and muster. From this point was—as determined by the court—that their character was changed from that of State to that of National militia, that they were brought under the command of the President as constitutional "commander-in-chief of the army and navy of the United States and of the militia of the several States when called into actual service of the United States," and that they became subject to the federal military code.²

The ruling in *Houston v. Moore* has been affirmed by subsequent rulings and opinions,³ in which it is the more distinctly laid down that it is *the formal muster into the U. S. service at the place of rendezvous* which properly constitutes the legal evidence

¹. 5 Wheaton, 20.

². It may here be noted that a considerable number of cases of trials of militia officers and soldiers by courts-martial during the late war are published in the General Orders of that period. A large proportion will be found in the Orders of the Department of the Missouri; the Governor of Missouri having been specially authorized by the President, in November, 1861, (by G. O. 96, War Dept.) to raise a force of State militia to serve during the war within the State. See, for example, cases in the following Orders of Dept. of the Mo.:—G. O. 31 of 1862; do. 10, 34, 94, 98, 104, 112, 141, of 1863; also G. O. 38, Dept. of the Tenn., 1864.

³. *Kneedler v. Lane*, 45 Pa. St. 238; *McCall's Case*, 5 Philad. 261; *Sim's Case*, Id. 278; *People v. Campbell*, 40 N. Y. 135; *Tyler v. Hero*, 8 Allen, 493; *Story*, Const. § 1213; III Opins. At. Gen. 691; 11. 14, 282.

of the commencement of the employment of this force. That the proceeding of muster-in is, regularly, the proper starting point of the service is indeed made quite apparent by the express language of the provision of the Act of July 17, 1862, now incorporated in Sec. 1648 of the Revised Statutes, that "the militia so called shall be mustered in," &c. It is therefore from the muster-in that the *amenability* under consideration properly begins.

The term of liability. The status thus initiated continues till the period of discharge. In the Act of 1861, above referred to, it was directed that the militia should serve "until discharged by proclamation of the President;" in the provision of 1862, repeated in Sec. 1648, Rev. Sts., it was declared that they should serve for a period named "unless sooner discharged by command of the President." The form of the order of discharge is not material provided it issue by the authority of the President, though communicated by a subordinate commander. Thus an order proceeding from such authority, which directed certain militia, upon being mustered and without being required to serve, to disband and return to their homes, was held by Atty. Gen. Legaré¹ "a virtual discharge from actual service." The usual mode, however, of discharging militia during the late war was similar to that pursued in the case of volunteers—a formal muster-out, accompanied by written discharges.²

2. Amenability for Refusing to Comply with the Call. The Act of 1795 provided that an officer or soldier of militia who should fail to obey the orders of the President calling the militia into the public service should incur a certain forfeiture and become liable to certain other punishment, "to be determined and adjudged by a court-martial." This provision, substantially repeated in the enactment of 1861, has been reproduced in Sec. 1649, Rev. Sts. The question which it suggests is—what kind of court-martial is intended, and this question has been passed upon and settled by the highest authority. In the case of *Houston v. Moore*³ heretofore cited, it was held by the Supreme Court that, though the mere calling forth of the militia did not bring

1. III Opins. 687.

2. See Mustering Regulations in G. O. 108 of 1863.

3. 5 Wheaton, 1, 25, 64-66.

hem into the public service, or render them subject to the articles of war, a militiaman who refused to obey the call was yet guilty of a military offence against the United States, for which, under the provision of the Act of 1795, he was triable and punishable by a court-martial of the United States, composed of course of militia officers. This ruling, affirmed in *Martin v. Mott*,¹ recognizes a peculiar jurisdiction having a source quite different from that exercisable over the militia after it has become a part of the national forces. This source is found in the power of Congress to provide, not for governing the militia but for calling them forth, and in the further general power "to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution" its specific powers. In asserting the authority of Congress to establish this jurisdiction by its enactment of 1795, Chief Justice Marshall, in an early case,² observed:—"In the execution of this power," (the power 'to provide for calling forth the militia,') "it is not doubted that Congress may provide the means of punishing those who shall fail to obey the requisitions made in pursuance of the laws, and may prescribe the mode of proceeding against such delinquents and the tribunal before which such proceedings should be had." That the exceptional jurisdiction thus created is quite other than that first above specified, and which is exercised over the militia similarly as over the Army of the United States, is illustrated by the fact, heretofore noticed, that the courts-martial, (authorized by Sec. 1649, Rev. Sts.,) for the trial of militiamen for disobeying the call, are not necessarily governed by the code of articles of war. This is indicated in *Martin v. Mott*,³ where it was held that the matter of the composition of such courts, so far as respects the *number* of the members, was not required to be regulated by the article, (now the 75th,) on that subject. And the court say, referring to the articles in gen-

1. 12 Wheaton, 19, 34. And see *Meade v. Depty. Marshal of Va.*, 1 Brock. 324; *Moore v. Houston*, 3 S. & R. 169; *Com. v. Irish*, Id. 176; *Duffield v. Smith*, Id. 590. It is to be noted that the doctrine of the U. S. Supreme Court, as stated in the text, overrules that of the Supreme Court of New York in *Mills v. Martin*, 19 Johns. 7, and *Rathbun v. Martin*, 20 Johns. 343, in which it was held that a *State* militia court was intended by sec. 5 of the Act of 1795, (R. S., Sec. 1649,) and could alone take cognizance of the offence therein contemplated, the delinquent not being subject to the articles of war.

2. *Meade v. Depty. Marshal*, 1 Brock. 326.

3. 12 Wheaton, 135.

eral,—“If any resort is to be had to them, it can only be to guide the discretion of the officer ordering the court, as matter of usage and not as matter of positive institution.”

That the offence which shall subject an officer or soldier of militia to the jurisdiction under consideration must consist in a refusal or neglect to obey the order of the President, and that a refusal to obey an order emanating merely from a Governor of a State will not render the delinquent so amenable, is shown by Atty. Gen. Wirt in an early opinion.¹

Term of the jurisdiction. It was held in *Martin v. Mott*,² that ‘a court-martial regularly ordered for the trial of a delinquent militiaman under the Act of 1795 did not expire with the end of a war existing when it was convened, its jurisdiction to try such offence not being dependent upon the fact of war or peace.’ It was added:—“It would be a straitened construction of the Act to limit the authority of the court to the mere time of the existence of the particular emergency, when it might be thereby unable to take cognizance of and decide upon a single offence. It is sufficient to say that there is no such limitation in the Act itself.”

III. MARINES DETACHED FOR SERVICE WITH THE ARMY.

Nature of the Jurisdiction. It is provided by Sec. 1621, Rev. Sts., that the “*marine corps, when detached for service with the army, by order of the President, * * * shall be subject to the rules and articles of war prescribed for the government of the army.*” The relation of the corps to the army, and the amenability of its officers and men to trial by courts jointly made up of regular and marine officers, are recognized in the 7th article of war, and have already been considered in the Chapter on the Composition of Courts-Martial. It need only be added that such amenability during the continuance of the detached service will be substantially of the same quality as if the offenders were members of the army proper; further, that while the jurisdiction for the trial and punishment of offences committed pending such service will most readily and appropriately be exercised before the same be terminated, it may legally be exercised within—

1. 1 Cranch 173.

2. 12 Wheaton 37.

reasonable period thereafter, provided it has regularly attached by the due commencement of proceedings before.

IV. CIVILIANS SUBJECTED TO MILITARY DISCIPLINE IN TIME OF WAR.

Statutes Authorizing Jurisdiction. The class now to be considered are persons whose liability to military government and trial by court-martial arises only in time of war, and is the result solely of the exceptional relations and obligations prevailing during a state of war. The statutes by which courts-martial, which, as has been seen, receive all their jurisdiction from statute, are empowered to take cognizance of offences of civilians in time of war, are the 63d, 45th and 46th articles of war, and Sec. 1343, Rev. Sts., which is also an article of war.¹

1. Under Art. 63. This Article, which is the most important and comprehensive of the statutes indicated, provides as follows:—
"All retainers to the camp, and all persons serving with the armies of the United States in the field, though not enlisted soldiers, are to be subject to orders, according to the rules and discipline of war."
 This provision which, with some slight modifications,² has come down from our original code of 1775, which derived it from a corresponding British article, has always been interpreted as subjecting the descriptions of persons specified, not only to the orders made for the government and discipline of the command to which

1. Here may be noticed certain statutes, no longer in force—viz: the Acts of July 17, 1862, c. 200, s. 16; of July 4, 1864, c. 253, s. 6, 8; and of July 16, 1866, c. 200, s. 3—by which certain civilians, to wit, contractors for arms, munitions and supplies for the army, (and navy,) inspectors in the quartermaster department, and civil officials and agents of the Bureau for the relief of Freedmen and Refugees, were made amenable to the military jurisdiction during the period of the late war. Cases of trials, convictions, &c., by courts-martial, of army contractors for frauds, neglects, &c., are published in the following Orders: G. O. 375 of 1863; G. O. and G. C. M. O. 3, 147, 166, 181, 212, 223, 322, 345, 375, of 1864; G. C. M. O. 382 of 1865; G. O. 167, 186, Dept. of the Ohio, 1863; Do. 62, Northern Dept., 1864; Do. 46, Dept. of the Susquehanna, 1864; Do. 3, Mil. Dist. of Ky., 1865; Do. 54, Dept. of La., 1865; Do. 47 Middle Dept., 1865; Do. 19 Dept. of Tenn., 1866. And see G. C. M. O. 614 of 1865; G. O. 114, Dept. of Washington, 1865, for proceedings of trials of inspectors; and G. O. 75, Third Mil. Dist., for a case of a trial of an agent of the above-mentioned Bureau.

As to the constitutionality of this class of statutes, especially of the enactment relating to *contractors*, see *post*.

2. The principal was the omission in the code of 1874 of the mention of *sutlers*.

they may be attached, but also to trial by court-martial for violations of the military code.¹ Protected as they are by the military arm they owe to it the correlative obligation of obedience; and a due consideration for the *morale* and discipline of the troops, and for the security of the government against the consequences of unauthorized dealing and communication with the enemy, requires that these persons shall be governed much as are those with whom they are commorant.² Owing indeed to the policy of our laws relating to the army, which has aimed to impress, in general, a distinctive military character—as officers and enlisted men—upon the persons employed in the military service proper, the classes of *attachés* mentioned in the Article have been less varied and numerous in our armies than in those of foreign nations. In our late war, however, they were necessarily more considerable than at any previous period.

“Retainers to the camp.” This term may be deemed to include:—1. Officers' servants; 2. Camp-followers attending the army but not in the public service. Of the former, there have been but few trials by court-martial,³ their breaches of discipline having been in general summarily punished by expulsion from the station or beyond the lines.⁴ Of followers of the camp—sutlers,⁵ sutler's employees,⁶ newspaper correspondents,⁷ telegraph-

1. See Samuel, 691–697; Hough, 596–598; Simmons, § 71; Maltby, 31; O'Brien, 151; De Hart, 22; G. O. 175 of 1864; DIGEST, 148.

2. See the authorities cited in the last note; also Com. v. Gamble, 11 S. & R. 93; Foucher, Commentaire sur le Code de Justice Militaire, 177.

3. See case in G. C. M. O. 139 of 1864, of an officer's servant tried for stealing from the mail; also in Do. 29, Army of the Potomac, 1864, of one tried for selling liquor to soldiers.

4. This punishment has also been imposed, summarily as well as by sentence, upon the other classes of persons who are the subjects of the Article. See *post*.

5. See G. C. M. O. 164 of 1864; Do. 9, Army of the Potomac, 1865; G. O. 13, 132, Dept. of Washington, 1865. Sutlers were also sometimes expelled in orders without trial. See G. O. 87, Army of the Potomac, 1863; Do. 11, 21, Mountain Dept., 1862. Compare Hough, (P.) 823, as to the expulsion of sutlers from the French army in the Crimea by an order of Gen. Canrobert for selling to the soldiers “adulterated and unwholesome beverages.”

6. G. O. 76, Dept. of Washington, 1865. And see G. C. M. O. 12, Army of the Potomac, 1865.

7. See cases of newspaper correspondents tried for making unauthorized publications—in G. O. 10, Dept. of Washington, 1863; Do. 29,

operators,² and some others,³ were, from time to time during the late war, brought to trial by court-martial or otherwise summarily disciplined.

"Persons serving with the armies in the field." While this might perhaps be viewed as a general designation including all persons serving in the field with the army in any capacity, whether public or private, yet inasmuch as the terms "service" and "serving," as used in the Articles of war, have reference to public service—the service of soldiers and the like—it is preferred to treat these words as intended to describe civilians in the employment and service of the *government*.³ This class, during the late war, was considerably more numerous than that of the camp-followers or private retainers. It consisted mostly of clerks, teamsters, laborers and other employees of the different staff departments, hospital officials and attendants, interpreters, guides, scouts and spies, and men employed on transports and military railroads and as telegraph operators, &c.⁴ Of these persons those who appear from the General Orders to have been most frequently subjected to trial by court-martial were—Inspectors, Teamsters, and other employees of the Quartermaster's Department;⁵ Officials

Army of the Potomac, 1863; Do. 13, Dept. of the Tenn., 1863. In G. O. 39, Div. West Miss., 1864, two correspondents, of the New York Herald and Tribune respectively, were ordered to be sent beyond the lines for a similar offence. In G. O. 48, Army of the Potomac, 1863, all correspondents not complying with a certain order in regard to publications are directed to be excluded from the lines.

1. In G. C. M. O. 29, Army of the Potomac, 1864, two telegraph operators are ordered to be sent beyond the lines.

2. See a case of an employee of the U. S. Sanitary Commission sentenced to imprisonment, on conviction of selling liquor to soldiers—in G. O. 45, of 1864. That the *wife of an officer* may be triable by court-martial as a camp-follower, see Hough, (P.) 629.

3. Persons not in public employment are classed under the previous description of "retainers." See *ante*.

4. See DIGEST, 48.

5. See G. C. M. O. 392 of 1864; Do. 25, 614, 625, of 1865; G. O. 9, 64, 86, 114, Dept. of Washington, 1865; G. C. M. O. 22, 45, Army of the Potomac, 1864; Do. 4 Id., 1865; G. O. 20, Dept. of the Susquehanna, 1863; Do. 15, Dept. of Ark., 1864; Do. 17, Dist. of Oregon, 1864; Do. 53, Div. West Miss., 1864; Do. 63, Middle Dept., 1865; Do. 27, Dept. of the South, 1866; Do. 29, Dept. of La., 1866; Do. 15, Second Mil. Dist., 1868; Do. 2, 5, 65, Dept. of the Platte, 1869; G. C. M. O. 45, Dept. of the Mo., 1868. And see, generally, G. O. 75, War Dept., 1864.

and employees of the Provost Marshal General's Department,¹ Contract surgeons and nurses,² Paymasters' clerks,³ Officials of boards of enrolment,⁴ Officers and men employed on steam transports,⁵ Military telegraph operators,⁶ &c.⁷

The Article to be strictly construed. This Article, in creating an exceptional jurisdiction over civilians, is to be strictly construed and confined to the classes specified.⁸ As held by the Judge Advocate General,⁹ the mere fact of employment by the Government within the theatre of war does not bring the person within the application of the statute. In several cases of public

1. G. O. 353 of 1863; Do. 33, 43, and G. C. M. O. 271 of 1864; G. O. 60, Northern Dept., 1864; Do. 105, 199, Dept. of the Mo., 1864; Do. 27, Dept. of the East, 1865; Do. 62, Dept. of Pa., 1865.

2. G. C. M. O. 373 of 1864; G. O. 58, Northern Dept., 1864; Do. 81, Dept. of Pa., 1864; Do. 163, Dept. of Washington, 1865.

3. G. O. 294 of 1863; Do. 72, Dept. of the Ohio, 1864; Do. 5, Dept. of West Va., 1864.

4. G. C. M. O. 388, of 1864; Do. 1, 59, 386, of 1865.

5. G. O. 7, 9, Dept. of Ohio, 1863; Do. 126, Dept. of the South, 1864; Do. 88, Div. West Miss., 1864; G. C. M. O. 26, Army of the Potomac, 1864; G. O. 40, Dept. of La., 1865.

6. G. C. M. O. 29, Army of the Potomac, 1864; G. O. 109, Dept. of the Ohio, 1864; Do. 19, Div. West Miss., 1865.

7. See cases of trials of employees of the subsistence, engineer and ordnance departments in G. C. M. O. 39 of 1865; G. O. 9, 24, 153, Dept. of Washington, 1865; Do. 25, Dept. of the Tenn., 1866; of an ambulance driver in G. C. M. O. 161, War Dept., 1864; an agent of the Freedmen's Bureau in G. O. 75, Third Mil. Dist., 1867; a veterinary surgeon in G. O. 36, Dept. of La., 1866; a scout in G. O. 19, Div. West Miss., 1865; and of persons styled, generally, "Government employees" in G. C. M. O. 25 of 1865; Do. 22, Dept. of Ky., 1865; G. O. 118, Dept. of Washington, 1865; Do. 16, Dept. of Ark., 1865; Do. 23, Dept. of Tenn., 1866; Do. 68, Dept. of the Mo., 1866.

8. As to the limits of the military jurisdiction exercisable under the *British* law over a similar class of persons, Clode, M. L., 95, well says:—"From what has been already written the reader perhaps need not be cautioned against supposing that all those who are resident or commorant within the Camp or Barrack are thereby rendered liable to trial by court-martial. Such a liability must be found upon the statute book in plain and explicit words leaving nothing to inference." And he adds, from the ruling of Chief Justice Best, in *Looker v. Halcomb*, 4 Bing. 189, that—"Any statute which takes away the right of trial by jury and abridges the liberty of the subject must receive the strictest construction," so that "nothing should be holden to come under its operation that is not expressly within the letter and spirit of the Act."

9. DIGEST, 48.

employees brought to trial by court-martial during the late war the convictions were disapproved on the ground that it did not appear that at the time of their offences they were '*serving with the army*' in the sense of this Article.¹

Limits of its operation—Application to Indian wars.

Further, the use of the terms—"to the camp," "in the field," "according to the rules and discipline of war," is deemed clearly to indicate that the application of the Article is confined both to the period and pendency of war and to acts committed on the theatre of the war.² A period of hostilities with Indians is, equally with a period of warfare against a foreign power, a "time of war;"³ and it has been specifically held by the Attorney General that civil employees of the War Department "serving with the army in the Indian country during offensive or defensive operations against the Indians" are amenable to military trial for offences committed pending such service.⁴ In cases indeed of offences alleged to have been committed during hostilities against *Indians*, it may not always readily be determined whether a *war* was in a proper sense pending at the date of the offence, or whether the *locus* of the offence was, properly speaking, the theatre of such a war.⁵ In a case of a quartermaster's clerk arrested, upon a charge of fraud against the Government, while serving at a post in the proximity of an Indian Agency, and of a band of Indians a portion of whom had previously been hostile but with whom no hostilities whatever were at the time

1. See instances in G. O. 9, Army of the Potomac, 1863; Do. 132, 153, Dept. of Washington, 1865; Do. 40, Dept. of La., 1865; G. C. M. O. 22, Dept. of Ky., 1865. Similarly, in a case adjudicated during the same period, it was held that an agent of the Confederate Treasury Dept., though acting upon the scene of hostilities, was not a 'person serving with the army' or subject to military trial; and he was accordingly released, upon *habeas corpus*, from military custody, after having been tried, convicted, and sentenced to death, by a court-martial. Confederate States *ex rel. McKee v. Scully et al.*, Sup. Ct., Confed. States, Sept., 1864. And see, as to the general principle involved, Antrim's Case, 5 Philad. 288.

2. In XIV Opins., 22, it is remarked by the Atty. Gen. that "the words '*in the field*' imply military operations with a view to an enemy."

3. XIII Opins. At. Gen. 31, 470.

4. XIV Opins. 22.

5. Note the situation as described in XIV Opins. At. Gen. 23, and also in XIII Id. 472.

pending, it was held by the Judge Advocate General¹ that the circumstances were not within the description or application of the Article, and this opinion was concurred in by the Attorney General.² In general indeed, the jurisdiction created by the Article should be extended with special caution over civilians serving with troops during an *Indian* war, for the reason that the theatre of such a war is commonly restricted in extent and that its duration is but brief as compared with other wars.³

Application to clerks of War Department, and the like, in time of peace. In view of the fact that this Article is operative only in and for a time of war, it need hardly be remarked that the mere fact that a civilian is serving, in time of *peace*, in connection with the military administration of the government,—as where he is a clerk of the War Department, or at a Military Division or Department headquarters,—will not be sufficient to subject him to military trial for offences committed during such service. This point was so held in 1877 by the Judge Advocate General in the case of Barth, a clerk in the office of the Chief Quartermaster Military Division of the Pacific, and, further, with regard to the Superintendents of National Cemeteries who are discharged soldiers and civilians.⁴ In both cases the ruling was concurred in by the Attorney General.⁵

Term of the jurisdiction. It need only be added that the jurisdiction authorized by Art. 63 should properly be exercised,

1. DIGEST, 50.

2. XVI Opins. 48.

3. See Digest, 49.

4. DIGEST, 49, 50.

5. XVI Opins. 13. And see his later opinion in Craft's case, *Id.* 48.

The only case *contra* is that of John Thomas, (1 *Chicago Legal News*, 245.) a civilian clerk of an army paymaster in Mississippi in 1867, who was held by the U. S. Dist. Judge to be amenable to military trial for a fraud upon the United States. But this conclusion was determined by the fact that the State was then under military government, it not having yet been authoritatively decided by the Supreme Court that the war was legally ended. It may be noted in this connection that the rulings to the effect that *naval* paymasters' clerks are amenable to trial by court-martial, (U. S. v. Bogart, 3 Benedict, 257; *In re* Bogart, 2 Sawyer, 396; *Ex parte* Reed, 100 U. S. 13.) are based upon the conclusion that these clerks are *officers of the navy*. The clerks of *army* paymasters, like all the other clerks connected with the *military* department of the government, are *civil* officials merely.

or at least initiated, during the *status belli*. Upon a declaration of peace, or other legal termination of hostilities, the Article is no longer operative, and the "discipline of war" cannot lawfully be applied thereunder.¹

Arts. 45 and 46. These provisions of the Code declare that—*"Whosoever relieves the enemy with money, victuals, or ammunition, or knowingly harbors or protects an enemy;"* and *"Whosoever holds correspondence with, or gives intelligence to, the enemy, either directly or indirectly—shall suffer death or such other punishment as a court-martial shall direct."*

Construction as to application to civilians. Whether the word "*whosoever*" is here employed in a general sense, and includes civil equally with military persons, is a question frequently discussed in cases arising during the late war, but which must be regarded as determined by the weight of reason and authority in the affirmative. The principal grounds for such determination may be stated as follows:—

1st. While all the other articles of the Code by which specific offences are denounced are so expressed as to apply *in terms* to military persons—as by the words "any officer who," "any soldier who," "any officer or soldier who," and the like, the persons to be affected by Arts. 45 and 46 are designated by a general and comprehensive term of description which may include persons without as well as within the army.

2d. In the only other case in which the word "*whosoever*" is employed, that of Art. 57, the same is qualified by the addition—"belonging to the armies of the United States." A similar qualification is perceived in Art. 44 which begins—"Any person belonging to the armies of the United States who," &c. It is a fair inference that where the qualification is absent the general term is intended to be unqualified.

3d. In their original form in the code of 1775, these Articles were phrased—"Whosoever belonging to the continental army," &c., a limitation taken from the corresponding British articles, then existing, which commenced—"Any officer or soldier who," &c. In the "additions" to this code, of November, 1775, was contained an article substantially identical with the second of the

1. See DIGEST, 49, 333. And compare V Opins. At. Gen. 58; XIV Id. 253.

original articles, but substituting for the description there employed the general term—"All persons." In the code of 1776 the description in *each* of the original articles was changed to "Whosoever," a form retained without variation to the present time; the articles in other respects also remaining without substantial modification. It is a reasonable argument that, in adopting the words of limitation first employed, it was intended by Congress that these statutes should not be restricted in their application to members of the army.

4th. The contemporaneous construction of the articles as expressed in the code of 1776 appears to have been that they applied to cases of civilians. Thus, in May, 1777, a case of one J. Brown, a civilian, convicted by a general court-martial of corresponding with the enemy in violation of art. 19, sec. 13, of 1776 (the present 46th Art.), was reported to Congress and recorded in its journals.¹ Subsequently, by Resolution of Oct. 8, 1777, it was declared by Congress that "any person" who should be guilty of giving intelligence or aid to the enemy should himself be "considered and treated as an enemy and traitor to the United States," and be triable by court-martial and subject to death penalty or such other punishment as the court might think proper. This enactment was practically but a reiteration of existing articles of war, while at the same time extending their application to certain forms of relieving and assisting the enemy not therein enumerated.

5th. That these Articles, upon their re-enactment, after adoption of the Constitution, in the code of 1806, were similarly construed, appears from the military Orders for the "Army of the West Lake Champlain," dated in 1813, in which the two articles are published for the information and warning of the civil community, as being "equally binding on the citizen as the soldier." In 1818, R. C. Ambrister, a civilian, was convicted by a court-martial convened by General, afterwards President, Jackson (whom also the finding and sentence were approved,) of aiding the enemy by "supplying them with the means of war,"³

1. 2 Journals, 135.

2. 2 Journals, 281. See, with this, the Resolution. *in pari mater* Feb'y. 1778—2 Journals, 459—under which Joshua Hett Smith, the alleged confederate of Arnold and André, was brought to trial by court-martial in 1780. 2 Chandler, Crim. Trials, 185.

3. Trial of Arbuthnot and Ambrister, London, 1819; Am. Papers, Mil. Affairs, vol. 1, pp. 721-734.

If the earlier writers on military law, while Maltby¹ was of opinion that the articles under consideration applied only to military persons, O'Brien² held that they were equally applicable to persons "in civil life."

6th. Coming to the period of the late war—the view was expressed at an early date by Judge Advocate General Holt that civil persons were included within the general description of the two articles and amenable to trial thereunder.³ This view was adopted by the Secretary of War, and announced in Orders of the War Department⁴ and of the military commands;⁵ and, between 1863 and 1865, civilians charged with a violation of one or both of the articles were frequently brought to trial by courts-martial; their sentences, when convicted, being generally approved and executed.⁶

7th. The practice during the war seems to have settled the question in the executive department. In July, 1871, the prevailing construction was recognized and adopted by the Attorney General, who held that certain civilians, apprehended in New Mexico for supplying ammunition to Indians at war with the United States, were amenable to trial under the 56th (now 45th) article, which, he observed, applied to "persons who are not as well as persons who are in the military service."⁷ This is the

1. Pages 37-40.

2. Page 147.

3. DIGEST, 20. And see Ives, 63.

4. See G. O. 67, War Dept., 1861, in which it is declared that all persons guilty of any unauthorized correspondence or communication by which intelligence may be conveyed to the enemy "will be proceeded against under the 57th (now 46th) Article of war."

5. In G. O. 24, Dept. of the Ohio, 1863, Gen. Wright, in calling attention specifically to the two articles, enjoins it upon all military officers in the Department "to arrest all persons guilty of their violation, without regard to age, sex, or condition, and submit proper charges against such offenders that they may be brought before a court-martial or trial." And see G. O. 80, Div. West Miss., 1864; also Orders cited in next note.

6. See G. O. 76, 175, 250, 371, War Dept., 1863; Do. 51, Id., 1864; Do. 106, 157, Id., 1864; Do. 260, 671, Id., 1865; G. O. 10, Dept. of Washington, 1863; Do. 52, Dept. of the Ohio, 1863; Do. 31, Middle Dept., 1863; Do. 13, Dept. of the Tenn., 1863; Do. 39, 58, Dept. of the Mo., 1863; Do. 190, 203, Id., 1864; Do. 31 Id., 1865; Do. 176, 181, Dept. of the Gulf, 1864; Do. 11, 19, 67, Id., 1865; Do. 3, 88, Div. West Miss., 1864; Do. 14, 27, Id., 1865; Do. 54, Dept. of the East, 1865.

7. XIII Opins. 472. What is said under Art. 63, (see *ante*,) as to applicability to an Indian as well as to a foreign war, is equally applicable here.

most recent authoritative ruling upon the question of jurisdiction under consideration.

8th. It is, lastly, a just argument in favor of the view that by the term "whosoever" it was intended to embrace non-military persons, that it is not in fact members of the army but civilians—disaffected or mercenary—who would be the most likely to indulge in the practices denounced by these Articles.

Limits of the jurisdiction. Accepting as correct in general the construction which has been put upon the two Articles by the mass of authority cited, it remains to repeat that these are statutes operative only in war, and to remark that the military jurisdiction extended over *civilians* by the same, (as by the other statutes of the general class under consideration,) must be understood to be limited to acts committed on the theatre of war or within the scope of martial law. This point, in substance so ruled by Chief Justice Kent in the early case of *Smith v. Shaw*,¹ has been more recently most clearly held in *Jones v. Seward*,² a leading case of a suit instituted against the Secretary of State during the late war. The same principle is in effect asserted by the U. S. Supreme Court in *Ex parte Milligan*.³

Term of the jurisdiction. It may further be remarked that this special jurisdiction, like that authorized by Art. 63 or any other growing out of a condition of war, should properly be exercised during the continuance of the war status.⁴

The jurisdiction not exclusive. It may be added with reference to this jurisdiction that it is not exclusive. The acts denounced in the Articles are mostly acts of treason, and as such cognizable by the U. S. Circuit Court.⁵

Sec. 1343, Rev. Sts.—Jurisdiction over Spies. This jurisdiction will be more appropriately considered in Chapter

1. 12 Johns. 257, 265. And see in the matter of *Stacy*, 10 Id. 332; *Mills v. Martin*, 19 Id. 22; *In re Kemp*, 16 Wis. 359.

2. 40 Barb. 563.

3. 4 Wallace, 121-3.

4. See DIGEST, 49, 333, and other authorities cited under ART. 63 *ante*.

5. That giving intelligence to the enemy, and supplying the enemy with arms, munitions, provisions or money, are overt acts of *treason* indictable in the U. S. Courts, see Chapter XXV—FORTY-FIFTH and FORTY-SIXTH ARTICLES, and authorities cited in notes.

XXV; the statute providing for the trial and punishment of spies being properly an Article of War.

V. CERTAIN OTHER CIVILIANS MADE AMENABLE BY LAW TO THE MILITARY JURISDICTION.

The Classes of Persons and the Statutes making them Amenable. Besides the classes of civilians last considered, as subjected by statute to the jurisdiction of courts-martial *in time of war*, the existing law makes similarly amenable certain other civilians, generally—*i. e.* without regard to the prevalence of a state of war, or equally in peace and war. These latter, who have already been referred to, in this Chapter, under the head of 'Exceptions to the General Rule of Non-amenableity after discharge, &c.,' are the following:

(1.) Officers and soldiers retained under military jurisdiction, after discharge, &c., by the last clause of the 60th article of war, providing for the punishment of frauds against the United States, &c.: (2.) Officers accorded a trial by general court-martial, after being summarily dismissed, by Sec. 1230, Rev. Sts.: (3.) Soldiers sentenced to dishonorable discharge and confinement, and, after discharge, held in confinement at the Military Prison at Leavenworth, who are made liable to military trial for offences committed during confinement as being within the terms of Sec. 1361, Rev. Sts.: (4.) Discharged soldiers of the regular army who are inmates of the Soldiers' Home, and as such made subject to the rules and articles of war by Sec. 4824, Rev. Sts.: (5.) Discharged officers and soldiers of volunteers, who, as inmates of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, are made similarly subject by Sec. 4835, Rev. Sts.

General Principle of Non-Amenability of Civilians to the Military Jurisdiction in Time of Peace. All persons of these several classes are *civilians*, by reason of their legal discharge or dismissal from the military service. That a civilian, entitled as he is to trial by jury, cannot legally be made liable to the military law and jurisdiction, in time of peace, is a fundamental principle of our public law,¹ and it is quite probable that

1. See *Ex parte Milligan*, 4 Wallace, 121, 123; *Jones v. Seward*, 40 Barb., 563; *In matter of Martin*, 45 Id. 145; *Smith v. Shaw*, 12 Johns. 257, 265; *In matter of Stacy*, 10 Id. 332; *Mills v. Martin*, 19 Id. 22;

Congress did not contemplate in these enactments any material departure from this principle. The provision of Art. 60 and that of March 3, 1865, incorporated in Sec. 1230, Rev. Sts., were war measures, intended apparently to be but temporary in their operation, and which have indeed been but rarely availed of in practice.¹ As to Sec. 1361, it may well have been framed without a consideration of the fact that it was expressed in such general terms as to include prisoners who had been discharged as well as those still in the service. Sec. 4824 was probably added simply or mainly *in terrorem*: no court-martial is known to have ever been convened under it. Sec. 4835 is a copy of the last, and as authority for trials by court-martial has proved wholly unavailable.²

Constitutionality of the Statutes. These laws, however, remain on the statute book, and under Sec. 1361 discharged soldiers are not unfrequently brought to trial,³ while under Art. 60 discharged officers and soldiers are always liable to be tried. It is proper therefore to consider the question of the constitutionality of such laws, and that they are constitutional it is difficult to be assured. They are certainly not so as being forms of exercise of the power to 'govern and regulate the land forces,' because the term "land forces" does not embrace discharged officers and soldiers or any other civilians. They must be so therefore under and by virtue of a combination of the *two* powers, to 'raise armies' and 'govern the land forces.' That is to say, they must be regarded as placing or retaining these persons, notwithstanding that they have become civilians, in the army for a temporary or special purpose, and, by the same act, providing for

Johnson v. Jones, 41 Ills. 142, 155; Griffin v. Wilcox, 21 Ind. 386; *Ex parte Kemp*, 10 Wis. 350; *Ex parte McRoberts*, 16 Iowa, 605; *Antum's Case*, 5 Philad. 278; *Ex parte Merryman*, Taney, 246; *Ex parte Henderson*, U. S. Circ. Ct. Dist. of Ky., 1860; *Parker v. Ld. Clive*, 4 Bur. 410; *Rawle on Const.*, 220; 11 Opus. At. Gen., 690; V Id., 736; 111 Id., 63; 111 Id., 1348; *Maffey*, 37; G. C. M. O. 16 of 1871.

¹ Two cases under Art. 60 are noted above. As to cases under Sec. 1230, see Chapter VI, where this statute is considered with reference to the authority of the President to convene courts-martial under it.

² A remarkable instance of a trial court ordered under this section, in 1865, and which well illustrates the incongruity of such proceedings, is mentioned in *Phelan*, 127.

³ See recent instances of trials under the previous reference to this Section in the present Chapter.

their government while so placed or retained, so that their offences shall be punishable as "*cases arising in the land forces.*"¹ But does the power to 'raise armies' extend to the inclusion of such civilians in the land forces? What are "armies" in the sense in which this term is used in the Constitution? Its interpretation is to be found in the series of statutes dating from the period of the adoption of that instrument, and of which the constitutionality has not been questioned, by which the constituents of our armies or Army have been repeatedly defined. These constituents are a certain number of officers commissioned or appointed, and of soldiers enlisted, into the military service as such, bound to obey military orders and to perform military duty in peace or war, entitled to military pay, and remaining under military discipline and government till discharged in due form, or otherwise legally separated from the military state. Such are the "armies" or "land forces" which the Constitution authorizes Congress to raise, support and govern. Can this authority be held to include the raising or constituting, and the governing *volens volens*, in time of *peace*, as a part of the army, of a class of persons who are under no contract for military service, but on the contrary have been formally discharged from all such contract, who render no military service, perform no military duty, receive no military pay, but are and remain civilians in every sense and for every capacity except the special one for which the statutes under consideration propose to reserve them? In the opinion of the author it may well be questioned whether this is not beyond the power of Congress under the provisions of the Constitution referred to. That instrument, in a further provision also,—the Vth Amendment,—clearly distinguishes the military from the civil class as separate communities. It recognizes no third class which is part civil and part military—military for a particular purpose or in a particular situation, and civil for all other purposes and in all other situations—and it is difficult to perceive how Congress can create such a class, without a disregard of the letter and spirit of the organic law.

In 1866, the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Kentucky² passed upon the constitutionality of the section of

1. Compare the reasoning in Wildman's Case, DIGEST, 213, note; XVI Opins. At. Gen., 294-5.

2. In the case of *Ex parte Isham Henderson*, on *habeas corpus*.

the Act of Congress (no longer in force,) of July, 1862, which, in subjecting contractors for supplies for the army and navy to trial by court-martial for certain misconduct, provided in express terms that they should be 'deemed and taken to be a part of the land forces or naval forces for which they contracted to furnish the supplies.' This statute the court, in an elaborate opinion, pronounced unconstitutional, holding that Congress could not "by its mere declaration" place or include civilians in the army, and that the provision cited was "idle and nugatory;" and it was well observed that if Congress could so dispose of one class of civilians, it could of another, or of all classes, and thus establish a "military despotism."

As to the particular existing statutes under consideration, however, the present weight of authority is in favor of their constitutionality. In the U. S. Circuit Court for the Dist. of California,¹ the concluding clause of Art. 63 has been viewed as constitutional, and a similar view has been taken of Sec. 1361, Rev. Sts., as including prisoners who have been discharged as soldiers, by the U. S. Dist. Court for the Dist. of Kansas² and by the Attorney General.³ Such opinions, whether or not satisfactory to the student,⁴ are to be deferred to till the question involved shall come to be passed upon, and otherwise determined, by the Supreme Court. Meanwhile of course these statutes cannot properly be treated as other than operative and valid either by military courts or commanders, and pleas to the jurisdiction, based upon their alleged unconstitutionality, will properly be overruled.

The Case of "Traders." It remains to notice under the present head, the case of "traders," or "post traders," as to the point of their amenability to trial by court-martial. This class, which, since 1867, has superseded that of the sutlers formerly authorized, is placed by Sec. 1113, Rev. Sts., "under protection and control as camp-followers," and, by the subsequent legislation

¹ In the case of *In re Bogart*, 2 Sawyer, 406.

² In *Ex parte Wildman*—Foster J. See DIGEST, 212-213, note.

³ XVI Opins., 292.

⁴ Neither the opinion of Judge Sawyer nor that of Judge Foster of a positive character, and neither furnishes a definition of the term "armies" or "land forces," as employed in the Constitution. A further omission characterizes the opinion of the Attorney General, which fails to distinguish between the amenability of civilians to the military jurisdiction in war and a similar amenability in time of peace.

of July 24, 1876, is made "subject in all respects to the rules and regulations for the army."¹ There can properly be no camp-followers except in time of war, and at such a time a trader pursuing his business with troops in the field would no doubt be amenable to military discipline and justice under the 63d article of war, quite irrespective of the first of the above statutes. The later statute does not subject him to the "rules and articles of war," but to the rules and *regulations* for the army—a term which in the case of civilians must be strictly construed, and should therefore be regarded as meaning no more than the Army Regulations. Thus while a trader, who is no part of the army, may, in war, like any other retainer or follower of a camp, become liable to be tried by court-martial for an offence against military discipline, he cannot be made so liable in time of peace. *Then*, while he is required to observe such of the existing army regulations as may apply to him, the jurisdiction of a military court can be extended to him no more than to any other civilian not brought within it by express statute.²

IV. THE OFFENCES WHICH THE JURISDICTION EMBRACES.

The offences cognizable by general courts-martial are those made so cognizable either by the Articles of war or by other statutes.

I. THE OFFENCES COGNIZABLE UNDER THE ARTICLES OF WAR.

Specific and General Offences. The offences of which mention is made in the code of Articles may be divided—First, into those which are distinguished by specific names and those which are designated under a general description. The former are those made punishable in all the articles which provide for the punishment of offences except the 61st and the 62d: the latter are those included within the general terms of these two

1. For the legislation in regard to traders, see more fully in DIGEST, 382-3.

2. See the statement of the law, by the author, in DIGEST, 384. No trial of a trader by court-martial has ever been had or ordered. For misconduct, the appointment of a trader may of course be cancelled by the Secretary of War, and it has been held by the Attorney General that the appointment of another person as trader for the same post will operate as such a cancelling. Opinion of July 26, 1882. For other rulings as to traders, see DIGEST, 383-387.

articles. But these general terms include more particular for and phases of misconduct than are contained in all the other articles combined, comprehending as they do all the dishonourable or disgraceful acts compromising their military relations which officers may be guilty, and all the crimes other than capital neglects, violations of army regulations and disorders, of whatever nature, not enumerated in the specific articles, which may be committed either by officers or soldiers, and which are directly prejudicial to the order and discipline of the service.

Two Kinds of Specific Offences. Further, the specific military offences may be divided into those which are purely military and those which are also crimes at the civil law. The former are those designated in all the specific articles except the 58th and 60th; the latter are those enumerated in these two articles.¹ The former are desertion, absence without leave, mutiny, disobedience of orders, disrespectful conduct to a superior, falling out of ranks, sleeping on post, drunkenness on duty, cowardice, pilfering, &c.; the latter are the larceny and crimes accompanied with violence recited in Art. 58, and the frauds, embezzlement &c., described in Art. 60. But in regard to these two forms of offences it is to be observed that all are criminal and all military;—criminal because the jurisdiction of courts-martial is criminal only; military because all offences of officers and soldiers cognizable by courts-martial are necessarily military offences. But though all are both military and criminal, there is the distinction between them that, of the purely military offences the jurisdiction of the court-martial is *exclusive*, while of the others this jurisdiction, except sometimes in war, in a region under martial law or military government,² is *concurrent* with that of the civil tribunals.

Further Division of the Specific Offences. Specific offences may also be divided into those which are peculiar to, or made punishable in, a time of war, and those which may be con-

¹ With these two articles, there might, though less obviously, be classed Arts. 26 and 27 which relate to the sending and accepting challenges, acting as second, &c.,—offences generally punishable by the criminal codes of the States; and Arts. 45 and 46 which relate to relieving and aiding of the enemy in various forms, some of which certainly, as heretofore remarked, would be indictable as treasons.

² See *Coleman v. Tennessee*, 97 U. S. 515, 516.

mitted and punished at any time whether of war or peace. Of the former are those indicated in Arts. 9, 43, 45, 46, 57 and 58, and most of those specified in Art. 42: that described in Art. 44 is also properly a war offence. Of the latter are all the other offences set forth in the code.

No Common-law Grades of Offences or Offenders. It is further to be said of the offences which are the subjects of the articles of war that there is no distinction between them of "felony" and "misdemeanor."¹ None of them are felonies and none of them are misdemeanors at military law, but all are simply military crimes.² So, among offenders, the articles recognize no principals, and no accessories either before or after the fact, *as such*.³ The grades of crimes and of participators in crime, familiar to the common law, are unknown to the law military, and the embarrassing technicalities which have grown out of the division of crimes into principal and accessorial are wholly foreign to the procedure of courts-martial. In the military practice all accused persons are treated as independent offenders. Even though they may be *jointly* charged and tried, as for participation in a mutiny for example, and each may be guilty of a distinct measure of criminality calling for a distinct punishment, yet all are principals in law.

1. The term *felony*, which originally at common law signified a crime entailing a forfeiture of land or goods, is now generally employed in this country to indicate an offence punishable either by death or by imprisonment in a penitentiary. A misdemeanor is "any crime less than a felony." 1 Rus. Cr. 45. The old common law division was into treasons, felonies and misdemeanors. 3 Greenl. Ev. § 1; 1 Bish., C. L. § 608.

2. The offences designated in Art. 58 are indeed, *as civil crimes*, some of them felonies and some of them misdemeanors at common law. But as here made cognizable and punishable by court-martial, *viz.* "when committed by persons in the military service," they are military crimes, and no disability or other penal consequence of a conviction of a *felony* can, in the absence of any statute imposing the same, result from a conviction of any one of them. See DIGEST, 334.

3. See Kennedy, 188, 190. In the only instance in our code where any apparent allusion is made to the distinction between principal and accessory, occasion is taken to discard it. This is in the 27th article, where it is expressly provided that "all seconds or promoters of duels, and carriers of challenges to fight duels, shall be deemed principals and punished accordingly." In several of the articles, as the 37th, 42d, 43d, 45th and 60th, offences in the nature of those of accessories are made punishable, but always as distinct and independent acts.

No Statutory Grades or Degrees of Offences. Nor there any *statutory* grades of military offences. There are grades, for example, of mutiny, desertion, cowardice, or of purely military offence, though the instances of such offences may differ greatly in criminality and may call for very different measures of punishment. So, as to the offences made punishable in time of war by Art. 58—the statutory military law recognizes no such distinction in larceny as *grand* or *petit*, nor any *degree* in murder, manslaughter, &c., such as are known to the law in most of the States.¹

Minor Included Offences. By this term is intended lesser acts of offence which may be included in the specific offences with which military persons may be charged. The principal of these are absence without leave, manslaughter, larceny, as offences included in desertion, murder and robbery. A further offence of this nature is the "conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline" which may be deemed to be involved in every specific military crime. The subject of its inclusion will be further considered in the Chapter on the Finding; it is here adverted to for the reason that the legality of finding of a lesser offence results from the fact that the court trying the crime charged, has *jurisdiction* of any minor criminal act recognized as an offence by law, which it contains or involves.

Separate Consideration of Military Offences. The various offences made cognizable by court-martial by the Articles of War will be specifically defined and considered in Chapter X.

II. OFFENCES COGNIZABLE UNDER OTHER STATUTES.

There remain a few statutes not included with the Articles of War, and mostly of a more recent date, by which military persons are made amenable to trial by court-martial for offences additional to those designated in the code. These statutes are:—Secs. 1359 and 1360, Rev. Sts., by which officers and soldiers are made

1. In a few cases the *military commissions* established by the Reconstruction Acts, in deference to the procedure under the State law, find persons charged with Murder, guilty of the same in the *second degree*. G. O. 107, 153, Fifth Mil. Dist., 1869; Do. 53, 62, Id., 1870. But they were here acting as *substitutes for the State Courts*. (See PART II

2. See *Dynes v. Hoover*, 20 Howard, 82.

amenable for the offences of allowing or aiding convicts to escape or attempt to escape from the Fort Leavenworth Military Prison; Secs. 5306 and 5313, Rev. Sts., in which trading with an enemy without a license, dealing in captured property, &c., with certain other acts of falsity and fraud, are, in cases of military offenders, made cognizable by court-martial—legislation evidently intended to be operative only or mainly in time of war; and the Act of May 11, 1880, by which it is declared that any officer of the army, Indian agent, &c., who, without authority from the President, shall permit any Indian on a reservation to go into the State of Texas, "shall be dismissed from the public service"—in the case of an army officer, it is presumed, upon conviction by court-martial. These statutes are all of secondary importance and limited application, and, except under the first two sections mentioned, cases will rarely if ever arise in the service.

CHAPTER IX.

THE PROCEDURE OF GENERAL COURTS-MARTIAL.

I. THE ARREST OF THE ACCUSED.

We come now to the extended subject of the Procedure of General Courts; and this subject will be presented in separate Chapters, under the following heads:—I. The Arrest of the accused; II. The Charge; III. The formal Ordering, Meeting, of the Court; IV. The province and duties of the President Members; V. The Judge Advocate; VI. Challenges; VII. Organization, Arraignment, &c.; VIII. Pleas and Motions; IX. Trial; X. The Evidence; XI. The Finding; XII. Sentence and Punishment; XIII. The Record.

THE ARREST.

Before a court-martial is assembled for the trial of an officer or soldier charged with a military offence, the accused is necessarily and regularly placed in arrest. This personal attachment or taking of the body into the possession of the law, is, in military, as in the general criminal procedure, the usual, (though not invariably,) preliminary to a bringing to justice of the offender.¹

The subject of Arrest is regulated in part by the Articles of War, (Arts. 65 to 71 and Art. 24,) and the Army Regulations (Pars. 173, 864–871,) and in part by military usage. It will be considered under the two heads of—I. Arrest of officers; II. Arrest of enlisted men.²

1. Samuel, 639; Clode, 1 M. F., 169; Id., M. L., 10; Manual,

2. In a strict sense the term *arrest* applies only to officers, the taking of soldiers into military custody of soldiers being more accurately expressed by the term *confinement*. Manual, 28. Our Art. 70, however, employs the "arrest" in reference to soldiers as well as officers, and it has been found more convenient to use it in the text as a general rather than a specific description.

I. ARREST OF OFFICERS.

Occasion and Ground for the Arrest. It is declared by par. 865, Army Regulations:—"Officers are not to be put in arrest for light offences. For these the censure of the commanding officer will, in most cases, answer the purposes of discipline." Where, however, the offence is such as to call for trial and punishment, the strict course to be pursued is prescribed in the 65th Article of war, as follows:—"Officers charged with crime shall be arrested and confined in their barracks, quarters, or tents, and deprived of their swords by the commanding officer."

The term "*crime*," as here used, is to be construed not as meaning civil crimes only, but as employed in a general sense and including *all military offences*, whether those purely military, or those which, while cognizable in their civil aspect by the ordinary criminal courts, are also in their military aspect cognizable by court-martial under Arts. 58, 60 and 62.¹ The context of the code from Art. 65 to Art. 71 favors this construction, which is also that sustained by the practice of the service; officers being, in the discretion of the commander, closely confined for aggravated military offences of whatever description. The corresponding article of the late British code was similarly interpreted by the authorities.²

The occasion and authority for the arrest of an officer thus is that he shall be charged with a material military offence.³ By this, however, it is not intended that formal charges shall as yet have been served, or even preferred. It is sufficient that knowledge of the offence be had by the officer making the arrest because of its having been committed in his presence, or, where this is not the case, that a charge be seriously made, orally or in writing, by a responsible person and communicated to such officer. In many cases indeed—and this is the better course where practicable—a copy of the charges as preferred is served upon the officer at the time of the arrest. An officer, however, is *not entitled to know forthwith* why he is placed in arrest, and, provided the charges are served upon him within eight days, according to

1. See DIGEST, 50. And compare construction of Art. 66, *post*.

2. *Wolton v. Gavin*, 16 Ad. & El. 66; *Simmons* § 360.

3. An officer cannot properly resort to an arrest of another officer in order to anticipate and prevent his own arrest by the latter. See case of Col. J. L. Smith, 3d Infy., in G. O. of Dec. 19, 1820.

the provisions of Art. 71, he can claim no relief on account of the delay.

Form of the Arrest—*The order.* In lieu of the warrant or other process of the general criminal law, a military arrest is, by the usage of the service, regularly imposed by an *order*, and this order may be either verbal or written.¹ An order in writing, as being more formal and better evidencing the action taken, is the preferable mode, and that commonly adopted, except where, the offence being committed in the presence of the commander, the arrest is ordered by him on the spot. The order of arrest, especially where in writing, is usually given through the adjutant or other staff officer.² This official does not ordinarily serve the order by copy, making return upon the original in the manner of a writ,³ but simply delivers to the accused an original, of which a copy is retained or a record made at the headquarters.

There is no prescribed form of expressing the order of arrest. A simple and usual form is a direction to the officer that he 'will consider himself in arrest,' or 'consider himself in arrest and confine himself to his quarters,'⁴ till further orders.⁵ A requirement that he surrender his sword is sometimes added, but is not essential, the Article itself specifically providing for such surrender.

The confinement. Art. 65 requires that the arrested officer shall be "confined to his quarters," &c., and an officer, upon arrest, will properly betake and confine himself to his quarters without being specifically directed to do so.⁶ The quarters of an

1. That a verbal is equally efficacious with a written order, see Hough, 493; Id., (P.) 22; Griffiths, 24; De Hart, 75; Benét, 47.

2. "An officer is put in arrest, either directly by the officer who orders it, or, more generally, by the ministration of a staff officer." Simmons §353; Manual, 28. Simmons adds:—"Arrests have occasionally been imposed by the intervention of the provost marshal, and, more rarely, notified even in public orders."

3. As is sometimes done in the *militia* service, where the procedure is in all respects more nearly assimilated to that of the State courts. See Maltby, 128.

4. But that the direction as to *confinement* is not necessary, being included in the simple order of *arrest*, see *post*.

5. An officer when duly placed in arrest cannot refuse to so "consider himself." As remarked by Gorham, (p. 27.) "he is under arrest whether he acknowledges it or not."

6. Unless indeed larger limits are specifically assigned him in the order of arrest. See *post*.

officer are his military residence, ~~whether consisting of~~ a tent or tents, a barrack, a separate tenement assigned to him at a post, or a house or rooms occupied by him at a station where public quarters are not furnished by the government. The limits of such quarters he cannot, of his own authority, exceed without being guilty of breach of arrest—the offence made punishable by the last clause of the Article.¹ On the other hand, an officer is entitled to be held in arrest at his own military habitation or lodgings, and cannot legally be removed to and confined in a building, tent, &c., remote or separate from his proper quarters.

The term “confined” does not necessarily import that the officer is to be *detained by force*, or to be harassed or humiliated by any unnecessary restraint. Such a restraint would exceed the requirements of safe custody, and be in the nature of a punishment. Except, therefore, where an attempt to escape or some act of violence is to be apprehended from him, or where he is charged with an exceptionably heinous crime, or an aggravated breach of a previous arrest, he is not to be held under guard, and the commander will not properly place a sentinel over his quarters.² For an undue or unreasonable exercise of the power of arrest and confinement conferred by the Article, a commander will himself become amenable to charges.³

1. “The article defines precisely what are the limits of an officer in arrest, unless when modified by his commanding officer, and an officer would no more be justified in exceeding them because they are not defined in the order arresting him than he would be in appearing with his sword because it failed to state that he had been deprived of it by his commanding officer.” G. O. 42, Dept. of Washington, 1866. (Gen. Augur.)

2. See Samuel, 642; Simmons § 355; Hough, (P.) 19; 2 McArthur, 3; Delafons, 199, 204; Griffiths, 25; Maltby, 129; Macomb, 20; O'Brien, 154; De Hart, 75. ‘In the dubious interval between commitment and trial, a prisoner ought in general to be used with the utmost humanity.’ Adye, 144. The arrest, where the officer properly conducts himself, should not be so severe as to prevent the due preparation of his defence. James, 411. “Where the party may be outrageous, given to drinking, or subject to a temporary derangement of mind, sentries have been placed to prevent the possibility of his going from his confinement.” Hough, 492. In the cases of breach of arrest published in the following Orders of the War Dept., the officer was confined under guard to his quarters: G. C. M. O. 441 of 1865; Do. 164 of 1866. The close arrest of an officer should not be characterized by an undue *publicity*, as tending unnecessarily to impair the respect in which he should be held by his inferiors. Hough, 461, note.

3. Samuel, 642; G. O. 59, Dept. of the South, 1862; Do. 251, War

The taking of the sword. The theory—it may be noted—of this further feature of a strict arrest under the Article is, that it formally suspends the officer from the functions of his office, and especially from the exercise of command.¹ The sword must of course be surrendered on demand:² this requirement, however, may be waived; the sword in such case, by a fiction of law, being nevertheless regarded as having actually been surrendered.³ But that the sword is not in fact taken does not authorize the officer to appear with it during the continuance of the status of arrest.

Extension of Limits of Arrest—"Close" and "open" arrest. An arrest imposed according to the terms of Art. 65 is that which is termed "close arrest," or rather the arrest to which an officer is by strict law subjected is necessarily *close* arrest, unless expressly modified by the commander. The Article, indeed, in declaring that the arrested officer "*shall* be confined," &c., might perhaps be regarded as a mandatory statute, absolutely requiring a close arrest by confinement in all cases. No penalty, however, is prescribed for not complying with its injunction, and that the provision is to be viewed as directory only upon the commander, who may thus, in proper cases, at his discretion, make exceptions to the general rule, is indicated by the fact that, *pari passu* with the Article, has long existed and been in force the army regulation—now par. 866⁴—to the following effect:

Dept., 1863. As to his liability also to a civil suit for damages, see PART III.

1. O'Brien, 154; Harwood, 35. In the early cases of Gen. Hull, (1813.) and Gen. Gaines, (1816.) these officers are described in the records of trial as surrendering their swords *to the Court* before being arraigned. The Order, (of Nov. 11, 1816,) which promulgates the proceedings in the case of the latter, (who was acquitted,) directs:—"The President of the Court will restore the sword of Maj. Gen. Gaines, with a copy of these Orders."

2. In a case in G. O. 310 of 1863, an officer is convicted of "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman" in first refusing, when placed in arrest, to surrender his sword, and then endeavoring to break it before delivering it up. At the "Simla court-martial," Capt. Jervis was convicted upon a charge of refusing to give up his sword on arrest. Simmons § 353, note.

3. See Tytler, 203; Hough, 460, 493; Griffiths, 24; Macomb, 19; Maltby, 129; O'Brien, 154; De Hart, 75.

4. The substance of this paragraph first appears in the Regulations of 1821. That the arrest, in the British military law, may be close or open at the discretion of the commander, is noticed in *Hannaford v. Hunn*, 2 C. & P. 158.

"An officer in arrest may, at the discretion of his commanding officer, have larger limits assigned him than his tent or quarters, on written application to that effect. Close confinement is not to be resorted to unless under circumstances of an aggravated character."

The result, in practice, is that in the great majority of cases, (especially where the detention is likely to be of considerable duration,) larger limits than the quarters of the officer are granted when asked; the arrest being in this manner reduced from a "close" to an "open" one, or an arrest "at large."¹ In many cases, indeed, more extended limits than those specified in the Article are allowed in the first instance and without being applied for, such limits being designated in the original order of arrest. Which of the two kinds of arrest shall be imposed rests wholly in the discretion of the commander. This discretion will be guided by a consideration not only of the nature of the offence and the conduct of the accused prior to and at the arrest, but of his state of health, the facilities required to enable him to confer with his counsel and prepare for his defence, the commodiousness or the reverse of his quarters, the season, climate, &c.;—the certificate of the medical officer, where the accused is ill, as to his physical or mental condition, the space properly required by him for air, exercise, &c., being of course always deferred to.²

The limits usually appointed or acceded, where a close arrest is not insisted upon, are commonly the boundaries of the camp, post, or station, or of a certain circuit of the neighborhood of the officer's quarters: at a post upon a military reservation, the range of the reservation, if not too extended, would in a proper case be acceded.³ The limits once fixed may even be enlarged upon a

1. As to the distinction between close and open arrest, see Tytler, 202; Hough, 494; Id., (P.) 21; Simmons § 354; Clode, M. L. 113; DeHart, 75; DIGEST, 119-120. That an open arrest, where the limits prescribed were "the City of Washington," did not impose a *physical restraint* entitling the officer to resort to a writ of *habeas corpus* for his release, see *Wales v. Whitney*, 114 U. S. 564.

2. See Tytler, 203; Hough, 460, 492, 493; Id., (P.) 19, 22; Clode, M. L., 113; Id., 1 M. F., 169, 171.

3. Griffiths, 24; Benét, 46-7; DIGEST, 119-120. And see G. C. M. O. 51 of 1867; G. O. 42, Dept. of Washington, 1866. In a case of breach of arrest in G. C. M. O. 37, Dept. of Texas, 1874, the order enlarging the limits of the original arrest, as set forth in the specifications, is as follows: "The limits of the arrest are so far extended as to allow him to leave his quarters at any time between reveille and retreat for the

second application. As to the number of applications there is no restriction: larger limits may first be refused on account of misconduct of the officer, and granted after his behaviour has improved. In some cases the scope allowed, in view of the rank of the party, the nature of the offence, &c., is so wide and general that the arrest becomes little more than a mere form.

Analogy of enlargement on bail. A theory which has been advanced to explain the practice of thus permitting an arrested officer to be at large is that the possession by him of a *commission*, which would be in danger of being forfeited if he violated his parole and escaped, is a sufficient *security*, answering to *bail* at the criminal law, for his not withdrawing himself from military custody, and for his appearance before the court for trial at the appointed time. In the words employed by Clode, "the officer gives bail in the value of his commission."¹

Deferring of Arrest till Trial. The arrest of officers is so much a matter of discretion that cases are recognized in which arrest is not required to be imposed until just before trial. Par. 867 of the Army Regulations prescribes that—"In ordinary cases, and where inconvenience to the service would result from it, a *medical officer* will not be put in arrest until the court-martial for his trial convenes."² Other instances also may arise where,

purpose of exercise, with permission to go beyond the limits of the garrison. He is not authorized by this order to enter any house." [The offence consisted in entering houses in an adjoining village without authority.]

In the British navy, the officer "is generally allowed to walk about the ship at large, (the quarter deck excepted,) without a sword." Delafons, 199. And see Hickman, 162. As to the practice in our navy, see Harwood, 36.

1. M. L., 113. And see Id., 1 M. F., 171. "It is an old and very good military maxim that an officer's commission is a good security against his breaking his arrest." Hough, (P.) 19. And see Adye, 144; Delafons, 199; Kennedy, 15; O'Brien, 153. "This affords one great reason for the distinction taken between a commissioned officer and soldier, in the circumstances of the arrest. * * * In all cases where the alleged crime, if proven, could not endanger more than an officer's commission, it may be said that this is a sufficient guarantee for the appearance of the accused, and that no other precautionary measure for that purpose would appear demandable." But in more aggravated cases, "additional securities should and ought to be taken." Samuel, 614.

2. See the case of a conviction of a superior officer, for a violation

because the officer is engaged upon some highly important service, or for other controlling reason, it may not be desirable to order him in arrest till the eve of trial.

Omission to Arrest. In some cases it has been omitted altogether to place the officer in arrest either prior to or pending the trial. These were mostly cases of officers of the higher grades, in which a trial was desired by the accused, and it was known that he would voluntarily appear before the court. The mere fact that the accused has not been subjected to arrest can in no case affect the jurisdiction of the court or the validity of its proceedings or sentence. If the accused of his own accord appears and submits himself to trial, the court is authorized to proceed in the case equally as if he had been brought before it compulsorily and in arrest. On the other hand an officer cannot refuse to appear for trial on the ground that he has not been put in arrest, or plead the omission in bar of trial.* An officer is not entitled to demand to be arrested prior to trial, and he must obey an order to present himself for trial with the same promptitude whether or not he may have been formally arrested. It is proper to add that an omission to arrest is an *irregularity* which must in general be prejudicial to discipline and the due administration of justice.

By whom Arrest is to be Imposed. Art. 65 indicates the "commanding officer" as the agent of arrest,² and par. 864 of the Army Regulations declares:—"None but commanding officers have power to place officers under arrest, except for offences expressly designated in the 24th article of war."

By the term "commanding officer," as applied to the *line* of

this regulation, in G. O. 59, Dept. of the South, 1862, and Do. 251, War Dept., 1863. In an old Order, (A. & I. G. O.,) of Sept. 22, 1819, the conduct of a post commander, in placing the post surgeon in arrest under a sentinel, is disapproved as "contrary to the usages of the service and unjustifiable."

1. DIGEST, 119.

2. "The custody of the prisoner's person belongs to the commanding officer as a part of his command." De Hart, 81. "The commanding officer is the person vested with the authority of placing an officer in arrest, or soldier in confinement, and this for wise purposes; for, if any officer under his command could at pleasure, upon any fancied insult or supposed grievance, deprive another of his liberty, a regiment would exhibit a scene of disorder, anarchy, and a total absence of all discipline." Hough, 459.

the army, is meant the chief of the complete integral command or separate organization to which the officer is attached or with which he is serving—as the regiment, detached company, detachment made up from various companies or corps, garrison, post, &c. Thus a captain commanding a company would not properly place in arrest a lieutenant of his company, if the company was serving with and as a part of a regimental or post command, of which a superior to the captain was the commanding officer present: otherwise, if the company were quite severed and acting alone. As applied to the *staff*, the “commanding officer,” in the sense of the Article, of an officer of the general staff would ordinarily be either the chief of the staff corps of which he was a member, or the division or department commander at whose headquarters or under whose immediate command he was serving;¹ or, if his station of duty were a separate post, the officer, superior in rank to himself, in command of the post, provided he were at the time under the orders of such post commander.²

Of course, here as in the other military relations, the “commanding officer” is not merely the immediate commander but also any superior of the latter who also commands him. Thus a department commander may place in arrest an inferior officer attached to a post command within his department. So the President may order the arrest of any officer of the army, and the general-in-chief the arrest of any officer under himself. In practice, the arrest of an officer proposed to be tried is not unfrequently originally ordered by the authority by whom the court has been or is to be convened. In some cases the arrest *must* be ordered by a superior to the officer who, as commanding officer, would otherwise be the proper person to order it. Thus a post commander could not properly place in arrest an officer of his command who had been detailed and was acting upon a court-martial assembled at the post by the department commander, but the latter would be the authority for the purpose.³

Excepted cases—Arrest by others than the commanding or superior officer. The exceptions referred to in par.

1. In the case of an aid-de-camp, the commanding officer would be the general to whose personal staff he belonged or was attached.

2. See G. O. 395 of 1863, in regard to the arrest of paymasters.

3. Hough, (P.) 711.

4, Army Regulations, as authorized by Art. 24, are those of quarrels, frays, and disorders," on the occasion of which any inferior officer or non-commissioned officer of the army is empowered to place in arrest the participants though they be of superior rank. Thus a sergeant or corporal, in exerting himself to quell an affray or riot, would be authorized to arrest a commissioned officer engaged in it, and a lieutenant would be authorized to arrest a captain, a field officer, &c.¹ There is nothing in this power to excite apprehension; the inferior, in employing it, simply exercises an authority, analogous to that with which every citizen is invested, to put a stop to a breach of the peace and arrest an affrayer;² and a military superior, arrested by an inferior under the circumstances, instead of protesting, would in general rather have occasion to congratulate himself that he has been taken in hand by one of his own class rather than by a vulgar policeman or other civilian. Cases of such arrests, however, must be of the rarest occurrence.

A further rare *exception* to the general rule is recognized in a case where a junior may be authorized to arrest a senior on account of some gross misconduct or criminal incapacity by which military authority and discipline are paralyzed, and where the necessity of the moment justifies the junior in assuming to supersede his superior in the command. The leading case of this kind is that of Lieut. Col. Hog of the British army, who was convicted of drunkenness on duty on an inspection parade and cashiered. The court, in imposing sentence, remarked as follows:—"The court conceives that it would be dereliction of duty were it to pass unnoticed so extraordinary and, as far as the experience of the court extends, unprecedented an occurrence as that of a commanding officer being put in arrest, while in the actual command of a regimental parade, by a junior officer of the corps." Upon this observation the comment of the reviewing authority, the Commander-in-chief, was as follows:—"The court are in error when they suppose that circumstances will not occur, even upon a parade, to justify a junior officer in placing upon himself the strong responsibility of placing his

See O'Brien, 106; De Hart, 76. That such was the construction of the similar British article, see Samuel, 400; Hough, 203.

See *Burdett v. Abbott*, 4 Taunt. 449, and the other authorities cited on this subject in the author's note to DIGEST, 13; also *post*, Chapter IV—"TWENTY-FOURTH ARTICLE."

commander in arrest: such a measure must alone rest upon responsibility of the officer who adopts it, and there are wherein the discipline and welfare of the service require it should be assumed."¹ This ruling has been recognized as by the later authorities.²

Status of Arrest. An arrest once duly imposed detaches officer from the functions of his office: he may not assume command or to perform any military duty. At the same time certain line of conduct becomes obligatory upon him. If clo confined, he cannot leave his quarters: if he does so, he render himself amenable to trial and to a sentence of dismissal for the offence of breach of arrest, hereafter to be considered. his arrest is an "open" one—the privilege of extended liberty having been accorded him—he is considered as at large upon parole of honor, and, if he exceeds the limits assigned, is liable to trial for a violation of the 62d article of war. He is also to conform to military law, regulations and orders, precisely as if he were not in arrest, and—in general—to be at least as circumspect in his behaviour as if he were at liberty and on duty; the fact that he is no longer a free agent not entitling him to consider himself irresponsible.³

There are also certain acts which, though not necessarily subjecting an arrested officer to trial, are considered inappropriate and indecorous, and, if aggravated or persisted in, may furnish ground for charges. Thus par. 871 of our Army Regulations declares:—"An officer under arrest will not * * * visit specially his commanding or other superior officer unless sent for. In case of official business, he will make known his object by writing."⁴ The Queen's Regulations prescribe:—"An officer in open arrest is on no account to appear in his own or any other mess premises, or in any place of amusement or public resort, and he is not on any pretext whatever to appear within the precincts of the station or garrison dressed otherwise than in uniform."

1. James, 840, 841.

2. Hough, 296; Simmons § 357; Gorham, 27; Manual, 29.

3. See Hough, 491.

4. Par. 870 assigns a place for arrested officers when the regimental company is "on a march."

form. An officer, when in arrest, will not wear sash, sword, or belts with his uniform." These rules are in general equally appropriate to our service. •

On the other hand, it devolves upon the commander to treat in a similarly formal and ceremonious manner an officer whom he has placed in arrest; all orders or communications made to him being properly transmitted in writing and through a staff officer.

The status of arrest affects in no manner the right of the officer to the pay and allowances of his rank. Unless in arrears to the United States, or held as a deserter, he is entitled to be paid precisely as if he had not been arrested.

So, as it has been held by the Judge Advocate General, an officer in arrest is not disqualified to prefer charges.² And it has further been held that an officer, though under arrest, was empowered to exercise the authority to quell frays and disorders devolved by Art. 24.³

But an arrested officer could not properly be allowed a leave of absence, except in some extreme case, as where considerations of humanity or justice required the granting of the indulgence, and in such a case the arrest would properly be temporarily suspended.

Term and Discontinuance of Arrest—Discretion of commander. Subject to the operation of the statutes yet to be considered, the matter of the release of an officer from arrest is, in general, quite within the discretion of the commander by whom the arrest was ordered.⁴ An arrest being imposed with a view to trial is in general not discontinued till the trial has been completed and the judgment of the court finally acted upon. The original commander, however, if the case has not passed beyond his control, may, under exceptional circumstances, if he deems it just and proper to do so, release the officer from arrest without regard to the pending proceedings. But where the case has been formally submitted to the action of higher authority, as where a

1. Sec. 6, § 20. And see, as especially full on this subject, Hough, 491. The same author, (p. 494,) cites a case where certain subalterns were censured for persisting in associating in a marked manner with an officer while in arrest.

2. DIGEST, 120.

3. G. O. 92, Dept. of the South, 1872. (Gen. Terry.)

4. Samuel, 640; Kennedy, 15; Simmons § 368.

court-martial for the trial of the arrested officer has been convened by a superior of the original commander, the latter would not be empowered, except by the direction of the superior, to terminate the arrest.¹

Absence of authority in the court. A court-martial can no more release from arrest than it can arrest an officer.² Even its acquittal does not enlarge the accused: it still remains for the proper commander to discharge him from the arrest as such, in and by the written order promulgating the proceedings or otherwise.

Absence of authority in the officer—His duty. Nor can the officer under any circumstances release himself from arrest. Moreover, when the authorized commander has released him, he cannot refuse to be released. The discharge from arrest is an *order* which, like any other military order emanating from a competent source, must be obeyed by its subject. The commander alone having authority in the matter, the officer is bound to accept his release as determining his status in regard to the case, and to resume the functions of his office. Even after charges have been duly preferred and served, he cannot, on being discharged from arrest and ordered to return to duty, persist in considering himself in arrest or entitled to a trial. The fact of arrest with charges gives him no right to demand a court; the granting of a trial in his case being a matter within the sole discretion of the department commander or other superior authorized to order one.³

1. "The authority competent to direct the release of an officer must be the officer who imposed the arrest, or the superior to whom it may have been reported." Simmons § 368. And see Manual, 20. Our corresponding article of 1786 and 1806 contained, after the words "by his commanding officer," in the last line, the words, (now omitted,) "or by a superior officer."

2. So, having legally nothing whatever to do with the matter of arrest, a court-martial cannot, with a view to facilitate the defence of an officer, properly interfere with the continuance of a close arrest, nor, in its judgment, unfavorably criticise the action of the commander in imposing or continuing such an arrest. Hough, 461; Id. (P.) 20; Griffiths, 25.

3. Upon the subject of this paragraph, see Samuel, 639; Hough, 465, 494; Id. (P.) 21; Simmons § 368; Kennedy, 15; O'Brien, 15; De Hart, 76; Manual, 29. (citing Queen's Regs., Sec. VI, § 23.) As to the distinction in this respect between the military and the civil procedure, see *In matter of Martin*, 45 Barb. 144.

Constructive Release from Arrest. There are certain proceedings which, either in law or by the custom of the service, have been regarded as practically releasing an officer from arrest, because operating to discontinue the status of arrest. Thus it was held by Atty. Gen. Cushing¹ that the *promotion* of an officer, while he is in arrest, will have such effect: this because the promotion is a constructive pardon, and, the charge being removed, the arrest falls with it. So, putting an arrested officer on duty, or allowing him to do duty at his own request—as to go into an engagement with his regiment—will discontinue the arrest.² But here there is no pardon of the offender, nor can the action taken be pleaded in bar, or serve as a defence, upon a trial subsequently ordered: in such case the right to arrest is not divested by the action taken, but suspended only, and the officer, after the duty has been performed, may be re-arrested and arraigned.³

Term of and Release from Arrest, as governed by Express Statute—Arts. 70 and 71. Art. 70, which will be more fully considered in treating of arrests of *soldiers*, directs that:—“*No officer or soldier put in arrest shall be continued in confinement more than eight days, or until such time as a court-martial can be assembled.*”

From the use of the word “confinement” it is to be inferred that, as to *officers*, this Article applies only to those who are in close arrest, *i. e.* those arrested and held strictly as contemplated by Art. 65.

In the original article, as it appeared in the codes of 1775 and 1776, the word “conveniently” preceded and qualified the word “assembled.” In view of its omission in the subsequent forms, the term “can be assembled” must, it is believed, be held to mean *can practicably* be assembled, *i. e.* as soon as the exigencies of the service may permit.⁴

1. VIII Opins., 237.

2. DIGEST, p. 120. But ordering or permitting the officer to appear as a witness before a court-martial will not properly have such effect. Harcourt, 119.

3. The removal of an arrested officer to a new station does not *per se* suspend the arrest. See *Cox v. Gee*, Winst. L. & E. 134. The disposition of an arrested officer “on a march” is, as has been seen, regulated by par. 870, A. R.

4. Compare the construction of a similar provision by Atty. Gen. Wirt in I Opins. 200.

The effect of the Article, as to officers, thus is, that officers close arrest may not be retained in such arrest for a long period than eight days, unless a court-martial cannot practically be assembled within that time. How much longer they may be held if a court cannot thus be convened is left indefinite.

But here intervenes Art. 71, which provides, (among other things,) that, "*except at remote military posts or stations,*" (i. e. those on the frontier, or which are distant because of the absence of facilities of communication therewith,*) officers of the army shall not be held in arrest for a longer period than forty days. Construing this article with the former, the result is that as to the excepted cases Art. 70 is left to apply without qualification, while as to other cases it cannot be held to authorize under any circumstances, a confinement before trial longer than forty days.

Special Provisions of Art. 71. This Article is in full as follows:—"When an officer is put in arrest for the purpose of trial except at remote military posts or stations, the officer by whose order he is arrested shall see that a copy of the charges on which he is to be tried is served upon him within eight days after his arrest, and that he is brought to trial within ten days thereafter, unless the necessities of the service prevent such trial; and then he shall be brought to trial within thirty days after the expiration of said ten days. If a copy of the charges be not served, or the arrested officer be not brought to trial, as herein required, the arrest shall cease. But officers released from arrest, under the provisions of this article, may be tried, whenever the exigencies of the service shall permit, within twelve months after such release from arrest."

This provision, which was originally enacted as s. 11, c. 200, Act of July 17, 1862, and first appears as an article of war in the revised code of 1874, is comprehensive in its terms and applies to all arrested officers, whatever the form of the arrest, whether "close" or "open." Its evident policy was to preclude protracted arrests and secure prompt trials. It may be said of it, as was remarked by Atty. Gen. Cushing² of an article of the naval code, (the present 45th,) that it is enacted in the spirit of the provision of the VIth amendment to the Constitution, that "in

1. See *Waters v. Campbell*, 5 Sawyer, 20.

2. VI Opins., 207.

A criminal trials the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy trial." 1

Except as to the occasions expressly excepted of cases occurring "at remote military posts or stations," which are left to be governed by the provision of Art. 70 just considered, the present Article is absolute and mandatory. The term of the officer's arrest,—instead of remaining dependent upon the uncertainties attending the assembling of the officers necessary and proper to compose the court, the collecting of the witnesses at the place of trial, the movements of the army in war, or other incidents of the service,—is limited by the Article absolutely and under all circumstances to certain periods. If charges are not served upon him within eight days after the arrest, "*the arrest shall cease.*" If, having been duly served with charges, he is not brought to trial within ten days after the arrest, or—where the exigencies of the service prevent a trial by that time—within forty days at the longest, "*the arrest shall cease.*"

An enactment thus mandatory and explicit in the conferring of individual rights cannot be disregarded or evaded by a commanding officer.² But while, in view of the positive language employed, the officer becomes entitled to an immediate release from arrest, upon failure to serve charges or bring to trial as provided, and *is released in law*,³ yet, if not released *in fact*, he cannot, from military considerations, be permitted to release himself. In deference to the principle of subordination which is the foundation of the military system, he must, if not discharged at the proper time, (as he should be,) duly make application to be

1. The occasion of the enactment of this Article is understood to have been the protracted arrest and confinement at Fort Lafayette, of Brig. Gen. Chas. P. Stone, U. S. Vols., who had been so held without trial for about one hundred and fifty days, when Congress, having become advised of the facts, inserted this provision for his benefit in an Act relating to the army. After its passage he was held thirty days longer, (the limit allowed by the statute,) and then released after a confinement of one hundred and eighty-eight days in all. Blaine's Twenty Years of Congress, vol. 1, p. 390.

2. "It would manifestly be an evasion of the Act if a (commanding) officer were to be permitted to keep an officer in arrest by *renewing* his arrest as often as it expired by legal limitation. The evil and injustice which this Act was designed to prevent would be equally as well accomplished by repeated arrests of eight days each as by one continued arrest." G. O. 86, Dept. of Va., 1865. (Gen. Terry.)

3. See G. O. 86, Dept. of Va., 1865.

released to the commander by whom the arrest was ordered. If the application is disregarded, he may seek redress under the 29th Article, if his case falls within its provisions;—or, if no other remedy may be obtained, he may appeal for relief to superior authority.¹ He has the right of course to prefer charges against the commander for a failure to observe the injunctions of the statute.

While the fact of a prolonged arrest in contravention of the terms of the Article could not be pleaded in bar of trial when the officer came to be arraigned, this fact, in the event of a conviction, would properly go to induce a mitigation of the punishment, or would furnish good ground for a remission, in whole or in part, of the sentence by the reviewing authority.²

The effect of the concluding provision of this Article, considered in connection with Art. 103, will be remarked upon in Chapter XVI.

Breach of Arrest. Art. 65, which provides, as we have seen, for the close arrest of officers by confinement in quarters, declares further:—“*And any officer who leaves his confinement before he is set at liberty by his commanding officer, shall be dismissed from the service.*”

The offence thus visited with an extreme punishment³ is that which is known in military parlance as *breach of arrest*. This term however is not exact or technical, and is sometimes carelessly employed in describing offences not within the purview of this, but cognizable only under the general 62d article.⁴

The leaving of the confinement. The “confinement” intended is clearly that designated in the first clause, viz. a confinement in ‘barracks, quarters, or tent.’ To constitute therefore a violation of the Article, the officer must (as shown by the written order of arrest, or testimony of adjutant, &c.⁵) have been

1 DIGEST, 52.

2 See G. O. 44, Fifth Mil. Dist., 1868.

3 It was once punished with death in the British law. Samuel, 644. As to its gravity, see remarks of Gen. Augur in G. C. M. O. 37, Dept. of Texas, 1874.

4 As to disorders, or acts of disobedience or neglect, by officers improperly charged under this designation, see *post*. The most frequent misuse of the term, however, is in describing violations of arrest by non-commissioned officers and soldiers. See G. O. 19, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1867.

5 Hough, 494.

ly confined in and to his proper quarters, (as heretofore deemed,) and must have quitted the same before being permitted to do so by the proper commander.¹ The distance which he may thus go is not material, nor is the period of time during which he may be absent.² If he leaves, (except from necessity,³) the place to which he is restricted, merely to proceed to some other part of the same garrison, he is equally chargeable with a breach of the Article as if he had separated himself by a long distance or time from the post or station. In the cases, published in the General Orders, of officers properly charged with, and convicted of, this offence, the same is alleged to have variously consisted— in visiting without permission the quarters of the commanding officer,⁴ or those of another officer,⁵ at the same post; in going to the guard-house or visiting the guard;⁶ going to the sutler's store;⁷ attending as a spectator a trial by court-martial;⁸ similarly attending a parade of the battalion;⁹ riding outside the camp;¹⁰

1. The quitting must be of *quarters*. The conviction in the case in G. C. M. O. 93 of 1865, where the officer was charged with "breach of arrest" in escaping from a *military prison*, (to which he had been committed for the killing of a sutler,) was properly sustainable only on the ground that the pleading amounted to an allegation of an offence under Art. 62.

2. "Officers under close arrest ought to be extremely cautious not to quit their quarters; * * * for to whatever trifling distance they may have gone, or for whatever short time they may have been absent, a general court-martial would be obliged to find them guilty of breaking their arrest." Kennedy, 15. "It is sufficient to prove in the case of a close arrest, that A. B. left his confinement; it matters not where he went to." Hough, 494. In G. C. M. O. 1, Dept. of Ky., 1865, is a case of an officer charged with breach of arrest in "leaving his station on a transport and going to the forepart of the cabin."

3. The order of arrest sometimes expressly provides for cases of necessity. Note instances in G. C. M. O. 16, Dept. of the Miss., 1865; Do. 18, War Dept., 1867.

4. G. O. 380 of 1863; G. C. M. O. 441, Id. of 1865; G. O. 111, Dept. of Washington, 1864.

5. G. C. M. O. 18 of 1867; Do. 29 of 1881.

6. G. C. M. O. 164 of 1866; Do. 57 of 1867.

7. G. C. M. O. 220 of 1866; Do. 29 of 1881.

8. See in Hough, (P.) 77, a case of an officer who, having been placed under arrest while a member of a general court-martial, "went in person to make the circumstance known to the court," thus breaking his arrest.

9. G. O. 26, 1851; Do. 11, Army of the Potomac, 1861. In Do. 29, Dept. of New Mexico, 1864, is a case of an alleged breach of arrest in leaving quarters and 'loitering about the post.'

10. G. C. M. O. 44, Army of the Potomac, 1864.

visiting a place of entertainment near the camp;¹ going outside the post into the neighboring town and appearing in public places;² crossing the Navy Yard Bridge from the District of Columbia and entering Maryland;³ going to a public race course and remaining two days absent;⁴ going from Portland, Me., to Boston, and not returning till the fourth day,⁵ &c.

The animus of the offender. It is to be remarked that the mere act of quitting the quarters, &c., without the proper authority, consummates the offence, whatever the intention or motive. Breach of arrest indeed ordinarily involves, with a disobedience of orders, a deliberate defiance or contempt of authority,⁶ and hence the heinousness usually ascribed to it;⁷ but an evil *animus* is not essential to constitute it, and an officer leaving his close arrest under the *bona fide* impression that he was authorized to do so, when in fact no such authority existed, would, strictly, be guilty of a violation of the Article.⁸

Defences. The nature of the offence is further indicated by the defences which have been set up to the charge. Thus it is

1. G. C. M. O. 93 of 1875. And see Do. 115 of 1866.

2. G. C. M. O. 16, Dept. of Miss., 1865; Do. 42, Dept. of Washington, 1866.

3. G. O. 111, Dept. of Washington, 1864. And see a similar case in G. O. 84 of 1863.

4. G. O. 62, Dept. of the Gulf, 1864.

5. G. O. 43, Dept. of the East, 1864. In a case in G. C. M. O. 38 of 1867, the officer, in breaking his arrest, left the post and was absent 21 days,—for which he was, also, charged with desertion and convicted of absence without leave.

6. As indicated sometimes, not only by protracted absence on the part of the officer, but by such acts as resuming his sword or the exercise of his official functions, (See case in G. C. M. O. 57 of 1867;) disorderly conduct or insolence toward the commanding officer, (G. C. M. O. 44 of 1865;) refusing to return to his quarters, and only doing so when compelled by force, (G. C. M. O. 3, Div. of the S. West, 1865;) forcing a sentinel placed over his quarters, (G. C. M. O. 164 of 1866.)

7. See O'Brien, 154; De Hart, 80.

8. In cases where it appears that the accused has acted in good faith, in ignorance, or under a misapprehension of his strict military obligation, the court has not unfrequently recommended and the reviewing authority granted a remission or commutation of the sentence. As in an case in G. O. 27 of 1835, where the breach consisted in going to the mess-house. And see a similar case in G. C. M. O. 18 of 1867, where it consisted in going to the sutler's store.

defence that the officer was *innocent* of the offence for which he was arrested and confined and that the arrest was therefore unwarranted.¹ The question of the guilt of the accused upon the original charge cannot be tried in this proceeding, and evidence offered to show that he was not guilty will be irrelevant and inadmissible. Even if innocent in fact, his arrest would not necessarily be illegal; the commander being, in his discretion, authorized to arrest upon reasonable grounds of suspicion. Nor is it any justification for a breach of arrest that the quarters of the officer were in bad repair or otherwise unsuitable as a domicile;² or that the arrest, by reason of the unnecessary placing of a guard over the quarters, or otherwise, was unjustifiably severe;³ in such cases the officer's proper course is to apply for relief to the commander, or, if he refuses it, to the proper superior. But that the arrest was ordered by an officer without authority to impose it, would be a complete defence: what officers have authority to institute arrests has been heretofore considered. It is also a complete defence that, subsequently to his original confinement, the accused has been put on duty or allowed to do duty,⁴ provided that, before the breach assigned, he had not been duly re-arrested and re-confined.

Acts not constituting the specific offence. The character of the offence is also illustrated by distinguishing it from certain acts sometimes charged under Art. 65, but which are properly acts in disobedience of orders or merely acts prejudicial to good order and military discipline. Thus a non-compliance with an order of arrest, in refusing to be arrested or confined, or of an order requiring the officer to report in arrest to a certain commander, however grave a dereliction, does not constitute the offence under consideration. Nor does a transcending of limits, to larger limits than those of the original close arrest contemplated by the Article have been allowed the officer, constitute the offence, though it may indeed involve a still higher criminality.⁵ So, for an arrested officer to quit his company or regi-

1. "It does not signify whether he was placed in arrest with or without cause." Hough, 494.

2. G. O. of Oct. 31, 1809.

3. G. O. of Sept. 22, 1819.

4. See Hough, (P.) 19.

5. In G. C. M. O. 37, Dept. of Texas, 1874, Gen. Augur, in referring

ment, when personally with it in the field or on the march, is an offence quite other than a violation of this Article.

Further, the specific offence being restricted to the single act indicated, no infraction or non-observance of any condition or obligation incident to the status of arrest *other* than that to remain confined till liberated, will of itself amount to such offence. Thus the wearing of his sword by an officer while confined in arrest, is not, *per se*, a technical breach of arrest, nor is the issuing of an order or other assumption of official authority. Nor, again, will drunkenness, disorderly conduct, or other improper or criminal act of which an officer, while remaining strictly within his confinement, may be guilty, however gross the same may offend against good order and military discipline amount to the particular delinquency under consideration.

The setting at liberty. This proceeding of the commanding officer, which alone will discontinue the close arrest, may be resorted to presently upon the arrest, and either by the commander of his own motion or in compliance with an application by the accused, or may be delayed till the trial has been completed and the judgment finally acted upon.² But where under the *limits* of the strict arrest have been *extended* by the commander, as where the officer, confined upon arrest to his quarters has been allowed the range of the post or station, he is, so far as concerns the application of the Article, as effectually "set at liberty" as if the status of arrest had been discontinued altogether.

II. ARREST OF ENLISTED MEN.

This subject is regulated mainly by the 66th and 70th Articles of war, but in part also by Arts. 67, 68 and 69.

to cases of transgressing *extended* limits of arrest, as not "technical fulfilling the requirements of" the Article, adds that the same "nevertheless involve as much if not more moral turpitude in their commission inasmuch as the greater the liberty accorded to an officer, and the confidence reposed in him, the greater are his obligations not to abuse the confidence."

1. See De Hart, 80; Benét, 47-8.

2. Precedents of cases of officers convicted of breach of arrest in leaving their quarters and going at large, after their trials had been completed, but before they had been duly released from arrest, are found G. O. 80, Army of the Potomac, 1862; Do. 43, Dept. of the East, 1864; G. C. M. O. 15, War Dept., 1866.

vision of Art. 66. This Article declares that:—“*Soldiers charged with crimes shall be confined until tried by court-martial, or released by proper authority.*”

General effect. The term “crimes,” like the word “crime” used in Art. 65 and heretofore interpreted, is evidently a general designation intended to include all substantial military crimes, both those purely military and those having a civil aspect—homicide, assault, larceny, &c. This Article is a general law of administration and discipline. We have in our law no system of disciplinary punishments, imposable by commanding officers independently of courts-martial, as is found in the European codes. Our soldiers, therefore, when, as expressed in the Article, “charged with crimes,” must—totally punished—be “tried by court-martial.” The great object indeed of their offences are disposed of, comparatively easily, by the inferior courts. But in all cases, the trial, by the provision of this Article, is to be preceded by arrest in the form of *confinement*.

Whom the arrest is to be made. While in a case requiring immediate action the arrest of a soldier may legally be made by any commissioned officer, or, if none be at hand, non-commissioned officer, the proper person in general to make or execute the arrest is the officer commanding the company or other immediate commander of the offender.¹ Such also is the proper authority to make the arrest of a non-commissioned officer. In some cases, however, a discretion for making arrests of enlisted men on account of ordinary offences is commonly delegated by commanders to 1st sergeants or other non-commissioned officers.

Form of the arrest. “The arrest of a soldier is confinement.”² It is indicated by the authorities³ as a reason why confinement is the form of arrest specifically prescribed for enlisted men that military superiors, if liberty were allowed the prisoner, would not have that security against escape which, as has more remarked, they have in the case of an officer allowed

¹ to the authority of a policeman, or any civilian, to arrest, without warrant, a deserter at large—see Chapter XXV—“FORTY-FOURTH ARTICLE.”

² Code, M. L., 113; Manual, 28.

³ Manual, 641; Clode, M. L., 113; O'Brien, 154.

to be in arrest at large, and that, therefore, to make sure of holding the party, a closer arrest must in general be imposed.

As to the *mode* in which the confinement is to be executed it is directed in par. 173, Army Regulations, in regard to *commissioned officers*, that they "are not to be sent to the guard-room and mixed with privates during confinement, but to be considered as placed in arrest, except in aggravated cases where escape may be apprehended."¹ The phrase "placed in arrest," as here used, evidently imports a mode of arrest similar to that prescribed for officers by Art. 65, *viz.* arrest by confinement in "barrack quarters, or tent."

The private soldier, when placed in arrest, is confined in guard-house or other appropriate place of restraint, a sentinel being usually posted either without or within.*

Status of arrest—Treatment. A prisoner is to be presumed to be innocent till duly convicted, and till thus convicted he cannot legally be punished as if he were guilty or probably so. The arrest by confinement of an enlisted man with a view to trial and for the purposes of trial is wholly distinguished from a confinement imposed by sentence. It is a temporary restraint of the person, not a punishment, and should be so strict only may be necessary properly to secure the accused. Anything further is unauthorized.³ The imposition upon soldiers, when confined in arrest, of disciplinary punishments is, in our service, wholly illegal. In one of the Orders last cited,⁴ Gen. Hancock condemns as unlawful the treatment of a soldier thus confined who was compelled to carry a heavy log for long periods, and because of such treatment, remits the sentence subsequently

1. This regulation is taken from an almost identical provision formerly contained in the Queen's Regulations. Simmons § 358 ; Griffiths, 7. In the existing British law, the arrest of non-commissioned officers is even more closely assimilated than formerly to that of commissioned officers. See Manual, 30.

2. Simmons § 358 ; De Hart, 76. As to the form of arrest in cases of retainers, camp-followers and the like, this, in the absence of statutory provision on the subject, must be left to the discretion of the commanding officer, to be guided by the circumstances of the particular case.

3. See O'Brien, 154 ; G. O. 35, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1869 ; 23, Dept. of the Lakes, 1870 ; Do. 106, Dept. of Dakota, 1871 ; C. M. O. 4, Dept. of the Columbia, 1881.

4. G. O. 106, Dept. of Dakota, 1871.

imposed by the court. In a case promulgated by him in Orders,¹ Gen. Dix comments with severity upon the fact that three soldiers, arrested as deserters, were, before trial, besides being heavily ironed, paraded in front of the regiment with their heads shaved. In a further Order,² the reviewing authority reflects similarly upon the treatment of a soldier who, on arrest, had been imprisoned in a dark cell for fourteen days with ball and chain.

Placing irons on a soldier, while confined in arrest awaiting trial or sentence, can be justified only when the same may be necessary, or a proper precaution, to prevent an escape or the doing of violence. A resort to manacles may sometimes be required for the reason that no secure guard-house or other sufficient place of confinement exists at the station. It must always, however, be an exceptional measure, and should be reserved for extreme cases.³

No military duty can properly be imposed upon a soldier while remaining under arrest.⁴ If required by some exigency of the service to be employed, he should first be released from arrest. Placing him on duty would indeed suspend the arrest *per se*.⁵

A soldier, upon arrest, cannot properly be deprived of money or other property belonging to him, unless there be reasonable ground for apprehending that he may attempt to escape, and the possession of such property would facilitate his doing so.⁶ In such case the same may be taken in charge by the commander, to be returned at the conclusion of the proceeding.

Term of and Release from Arrest—Arts. 66 and 70.

Art. 66 declares that the confinement in arrest shall continue

1. G. O. 23, Dept. of the Lakes, 1863.

2. G. O. 35, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1869.

3. Simmons § 359; Clode, M. L., 113; Id., 1 M. F., 169; Manual, 30; G. O. 26, Dept. of Cal., 1866. The following reference by Judge Story, in *Steere v. Field*, 2 Mason, 516, to the law relating to prisoners arrested for debt, is singularly applicable to cases of military prisoners held in arrest preparatory to trial, and shows also how old is the principle governing the general subject:—"By the ancient common law, prisoners were not allowed to be kept in irons, for the reason, assigned by Bracton, *quia carcer ad continendos non ad puniendos haberi debeat*. And Lord Coke significantly observes that where the law requireth that a prisoner should be kept *in salva et arcta custodia*, yet that must be without punishment to the prisoner."

4. Manual, 30.

5. Hough, 401; Griffiths, 72.

6. Compare *Allen v. Colby*, 47 N. H. 544.

commander, or by his judgment of the convenience of the service, but that in every case, where war or other controlling exigency did not prevent,¹ the court should be assembled at the earliest date at which, by the exercise of reasonable diligence, the members could be brought together. O'Brien² observes of the Article that its effect is "to make it obligatory on those having authority to assemble the court as speedily as may be. It also," he adds, "makes it a duty to bring all prisoners to trial by the first court having cognizance of their cases, which may convene." If indeed a court, having jurisdiction of the case, were already assembled, it would accord with the spirit of the Article if the accused were ordered before it as soon as practicable, and his detention in arrest thus correspondingly abridged.

Unreasonable arrests. In practice, however, enlisted men have not unfrequently been detained in arrest and confinement for long and apparently unreasonable periods before trial, and while the officer responsible in such a case would be amenable to military justice under the general—62d—Article, (as well as to civil suit for damages,) it would be well if our code embraced a specific article corresponding to the recent 74th of the British Articles, now incorporated in sec. 21 of the Army Act, which provides that an officer who "*unnecessarily detains a prisoner in arrest or confinement without bringing him to trial, or fails to bring his case before the proper authority for investigation,*" shall, on conviction, be liable to be cashiered, or to suffer some lesser punishment according to the circumstances of the case.

Where indeed soldiers of our army are detained in confinement for unreasonable periods prior to trial, or after trial and before promulgation of sentence, and have in their sentences been condemned to terms of imprisonment,—while the period of the detention cannot legally be credited upon the term of confinement in executing the latter, the same may well be mitigated and reduced by the reviewing authority, (in approving the sentence,) by a period equal to that of the protracted confinement in arrest.³ This action has been repeatedly taken in practice.

1. In Delap's Case, a detention of the accused in arrest nearly three and a half months before trial was held not unreasonable, in view of the state of war then existing, (in Florida.) G. O. 13 of 1843.

2. Page 155.

3. DIGEST, 120; G. O. 105 of 1874; G. C. M. O. 63 of 1874.

Provisions of Arts. 67, 68 and 69. These Articles, (which the originals are to be found in the Code of James II,) relate to the commitment of "prisoners" (mainly arrested soldiers) to the guard-house, and to their custody and disposition they may, therefore, properly be considered in this connection.

Art. 67. This Article provides that:—"No provost-marshal, or officer commanding a guard, shall refuse to receive or keep any prisoner committed to his charge by an officer belonging to the forces of the United States; provided the officer committing shall, at the same time, deliver an account in writing, signed by himself, of the crime charged against the prisoner."

Duty and right of officer of the guard. The proper construction of this Article appears to be that it is thereby made mandatory upon the (provost-marshal¹ or) officer of the guard to receive and keep prisoners committed to his custody by any other military officer, in every case where a written charge of a military offence is presented at the same time with the prisoner,² but that, where no such charge is rendered, he is at liberty to refuse to receive the prisoner.³ That he *may* receive and confine

1. As to this official, not at present known, as such, to our service in general—see Chapter XI.

2. *Wolton v. Gavin*, 16 Ad. & El. 69, 76. And see *Id.* 65, where Lord Campbell observes that—"the duty of receiving and keeping the prisoner arises *eo instanti*" upon the one condition specified in the Article, *viz.* the delivery of the written charge, being complied with adding—"that the burden of making inquiry as to the propriety of the arrest is not cast upon the" officer of the guard, "but that he is bound to receive the prisoner immediately the condition is performed." And see *Clode, M. L.*, 114. In the other principal adjudication upon this Article—*Smith v. Shaw*, 12 Johns. 269—the court remark:—"The Article virtually confers on any officer belonging to the forces of the United States the power of committing as prisoners such as have committed offences cognizable by military law." And see *Hough*, 473, who also construes the term "forces" (in the corresponding British article) as referring exclusively to the military forces, and observes that it does not preclude the officer from committing a prisoner that may happen to belong to a regiment or corps other than his own. "Forces of the United States," as employed in our Article, would certainly include a detachment of *marines* serving with the army as indicated in Art. 78.

3. The American authorities, (see *O'Brien*, 155; *De Hart*, 73; *Beaumont*, 50,) have generally held that the officer of the guard is properly required to receive and confine the prisoner, (if a person amenable to military law and committed by a responsible officer,) whether a verified written charge be delivered with him or not; following here the view and use in substance the language of *Simmons* (§ 362,) in treating of the

s in the absence of a written charge is illustrated by par. the Army Regulations, providing for the discharge, (un-erwise specially ordered,) of prisoners "without written" at the next guard-mounting; but that he may also, at etion, decline to receive them, under such circumstances, ed to be clear from the terms of the Article. Thus, while not unfrequently feel warranted in accepting into custody er upon a verbal charge alone where the committing offi-own to him as an officer in good standing in his own or regiment or corps, he will yet be authorized, and it will uty, to refuse to accept him in a proper case,—as where, nce, he has reason to believe that the officer is not re-e, or acting in good faith, or that the prisoner has not ility of a military offence.¹ In any such instance he is before consenting to take the party in charge, to insist ; a warrant for the commitment, a duly authenticated accusation. To require the written statement will indeed l occasions the *preferable* course, as that which will best the soldier against unfounded arrests, ensure the prisoner a neglect of his case and improper detention, and conduce rder and convenience of the command.²

"account in writing," or charge. It will indeed aratively rare, in time of peace certainly, that the com-officer will not be enabled readily to comply with the of the Article. The "account in writing of the crime" need not consist of a charge and specification in the the technical pleading upon which an accused person is d before a court-martial, but may be of the most informal r, consisting merely of the name or description of the n general terms and as designated in common parlance—nkenness," "Disobedience of Orders," "Larceny," &c.³

ng British article. But these authorities have not apparently ed the marked distinction between the form of our article and h; the latter not containing the word "provided," or any term r effect, but consisting of two separate and distinct clauses en-istinct and independent obligations.

the last two notes.

G. O. 129, Dept. of the Gulf, 1864; Do. 26, Dept. of Cal.,

may not be in the power of the officer to give the precise hich are to be exhibited against the accused, which are indeed

Further, to avoid the embarrassment of executing and filling separate writing with each commitment, the name of the prisoner with the offence charged may conveniently be entered in a report book prepared with blanks for the purpose, with a space also for the signature of the committing officer. Thus the officer, upon the delivery of the prisoner, will simply have to fill out the book, the particulars indicated and make the commitment official by his signature opposite, and the Article will be complied with. This is the form generally pursued at our frontier posts.

The military offence impliedly created by the Article

It may be remarked that, although the Article fails to prescribe any penalty for the act of refusing to receive and keep a prisoner when accompanied by a written charge, such act may properly be treated as conduct prejudicial to military order and discipline and so punishable as an offence under Art. 62.¹

Art. 68. This Article prescribes as follows:—"Every officer to whose charge a prisoner is committed shall, within twenty-four hours after such commitment, or as soon as he is relieved from guard, report in writing, to the commanding officer, the name of such prisoner, the crime charged against him, and the name of the officer committing him; and if he fails to make such report he shall be punished as a court-martial may direct."

Purpose of the Article. The chief intent of this Article is evidently to preclude the unreasonable detention without trial of the prisoners committed daily to the guard-house at posts, and to secure them a prompt trial by bringing the cases, within twenty-four hours, (or at other brief regular periods,) to the attention of the commanding officer, who, upon an examination of the facts reported, may determine then and there, so far

subject to be altered by the commanding officer; therefore it is sufficient to exhibit such an accusation in writing, (signed by the party committing, with his name, rank and regt.,) as shall indicate the nature of the alleged offence." Hough, 474.

¹ In G. O. 33, Dept. of the South, 1864, is a precedent of a court-martial of a Captain and Provost-Marshal of a Division, convicted of refusing to receive a prisoner committed to him by another officer with a written statement of the offence; the charge, though erroneously laid upon the specific article, (the then 80th, now 67th,) being a sufficient plea of an offence under Art. 62.

power, whether the parties shall be tried or released.¹ If the report being duly made, the commander becomes responsible for the proper disposition of the cases.² The commanding officer referred to in the Article is of course the officer of the command by the guard of which the prisoners are held, that is to say the officer commanding the regiment, detachment, garrison, post, &c.

offence, how proved. The offence made punishable by this Article, of failing to make the required report, would be established by proof that no report whatever was made, or that it was not made in writing, or that it did not set forth some one or more of the particulars prescribed, or that it was not made at the required time.³

69. This Article directs that:—“*Any officer who pre- without proper authority, to release any prisoner committed to his charge, or suffers any prisoner so committed to escape, shall be punished as a court-martial may direct.*”

Interpretation and construction. The object of the Article is to ensure the safe custody of soldiers under arrest and other prisoners, and to prevent their discharge except by the authority of the commanding officer. It therefore makes punishable, at the discretion of the court, the two offences of *releasing a prisoner without authority* and of *suffering an escape*.

The term “any officer,” while no doubt principally contemplates officers commanding post or camp guards, or in charge of the confinement, will include also an officer to whom a prisoner may be specially committed as a personal trust, whether or not he be furnished with a guard. The term “any prisoner,”

having probably special reference to soldiers confined under arrest, or the class of prisoners indicated in the two preceding articles, embraces any other species of prisoner properly committed to the charge of an officer of the army, whether member of the army, camp-follower, prisoner of war,⁴ person held as

¹ Hough, 489; Simmons § 361.

² Hough, (P.) 23.

³ Hough, 490.

⁴ One of the most conspicuous cases of a breach of this specific article during the late war was that of a Lieut. commanding a guard on board a

a spy, or for a violation of the laws of war, or other party, military or civil.

Unauthorized release. The fact of the omission to put any charge upon the commitment of the prisoner would not authorize his release.¹ Nor would the fact that the charge is a trivial one, or that the accused is innocent of the charge, or that the commitment is illegal, have such effect; being circumstances to be considered and acted upon by superior authority.² The "proper authority" specified in the Act is of course the chief of the command by the guard of which the prisoner is held, (and to whom the report required by the previous article has been made,) or, in the case of a special personal trust, the authority imposing the same, or the military superior to whom the case may have been formally submitted for official action or under whose control it may otherwise come.³

Suffering an escape. This was an offence punished by common law about which much learning is to be found in reports and treatises.⁴ Two degrees or kinds of the offence are recognized—*voluntary escape* and *negligent escape*;⁵ the "escape" being used in criminal law to express the sufficiency of an escape on the part of the keeper more commonly than the act of the prisoner in getting away, which is technically known as "prison-breach" or "breach of prison." Voluntary escape is defined to be—"where the sheriff intentionally or knowingly permits the prisoner to go at large;" negligent escape—"where the prisoner breaks out of prison and is at large, without the consent, but through the negligence, express or implied, of the sheriff."⁶ The former offence was viewed as a graver one

transport, who was convicted of suffering the escape of three Confederate prisoners of war, (commissioned officers,) in his charge. G. O. 8 West Miss., 1865.

1. Hough, 480; Id., (P.) 23.

2. Hough, 480.

3. Id. And see Simmons § 361.

4. See Steere v. Field, 2 Mason, 486, and cases cited; 2 Bishop L. § 1092-1106; 1 Hale, P. C., 590-605; 2 Hawkins, c. 19; 1 G. O. c. 20.

5. 1 Russell, 418; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 1095.

6. Adams v. Turrentine, 8 Ire. 147.

the latter; its degree in law being held to be the same as that of the original crime of the prisoner whose escape had been permitted; so that, if the prisoner were confined for felony, the voluntary suffering of the escape on the part of the keeper would be indictable as felony.¹ A "negligent" escape did not rise above the degree of misdemeanor.²

It is quite clear, under the general language of the present Article, (and has been thus held by Hough,³) that the offence made punishable therein may consist either in a voluntary act or in an act of negligence; and it is manifest that the former would properly call for a more severe punishment than the latter.⁴

So, such of the principles of the law relating to the criminal offence as are apposite to military cases may well be here applied. For example, at common law, the fact that the prisoner returned of his own accord did not, *per se*, excuse a negligent escape, (*i. e.* suffering of an escape,) once consummated.⁵ Nor did the fact of recapture of the prisoner have such effect,⁶ unless he were

1. 1 Russell, 418; 4 Black. Com., 130; 2 Wharton, C. L. § 1667; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 1095, 1099; Weaver v. Com., 29 Pa. St. 445.

2. Dalton, c. 159; 2 Wharton, C. L. § 1667.

3. This author, (p. 484,) referring to the corresponding British article, observes that the offence is committed 'not only where the officer allows the prisoner to escape, (intending it to take place,) either by reconcert or by giving the opportunity with a criminal intention, but so and equally where, by want of precaution, or the neglect of duty, or disobedience of orders issued relative to the security of prisoners, the escape takes place.'

4. 4 Black. Com., 130; Hough, 481, 485. Blackstone observes that "an officer permitting an escape, either by negligence or connivance, is much more culpable than the prisoner" whose escape is effected. Hough, 487, cites an exceptionally severe and ignominious sentence adjudged in India in 1819, and confirmed, in a case of a native officer, convicted of gross negligence in suffering the escape of an important prisoner, (under circumstances indicating also connivance,) as follows:—"To be dismissed the service, to have his sash burnt, and his sword broke over his head, in front of the troops at the station; after which to have a halter tied round his neck, and to be drummed out of campments."

5. Bank of U. S. v. Tyler, 4 Peters, 389; Briggs v. Cramer, 2 South. 83; Nall v. State, 34 Ala. 262. So, in G. C. M. O. 25, Dept. of Cal., 83, Gen. Schofield, in approving a conviction of a violation of Art. 62 allowing a convict prisoner to escape, remarks:—"Neither the recapture of an escaped prisoner, unless the same be immediate, nor the subsequent voluntary return of the prisoner himself, can excuse an escape suffered through a neglect of duty on the part of the keeper."

6. Bank of U. S. v. Tyler, *ante*.

immediately pursued and retaken before being lost sight of.¹ The death of an escaped prisoner before recapture did not "purge" the escape.² The rule, however, as to what acts will constitute negligence is not so strict at the military as at the common law.³ Thus, where a prisoner has succeeded in effecting his escape through the insecurity or inadequacy of the guard-house or prison, which it was the business of superior authority to have made secure or sufficient, the officer in charge cannot in general properly be held responsible under this Article. Otherwise, however, where the escape is effected by reason of a neglect on his part to take precautions within his power and duty. As where he neglected to cause the prisoner to be properly restrained or guarded;⁴ or where he failed to have him searched when there was reasonable ground to believe that he might have, and he had in fact, an implement suitable for securing his escape concealed upon his person; or where he permitted the prisoner to have private interviews with improper persons by whose aid the escape was facilitated.⁵

As to the proof of the offence, it is further held at the common law—and the same principles are applicable here—that, while it should appear that the arrest and commitment were legal,⁶ it need not be shown that the prisoner was actually guilty of the offence for which he was arrested,⁷ or that the officer had knowledge of his guilt.⁸ The latter, at military law, is absolutely re-

1. 1 Russell, 419; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 1095; *Whitehead v. Keyes*, 1 Allen, 350.

2. *Whicker v. Roberts*, 10 Ire. 485.

3. The common law rule was that nothing short of an act of God, or of the public enemy, or of irresistible adverse force, (as in case of *rescue*,) would excuse a *negligent* escape. (2 Wharton, C. L. § 1668.) It may be added that the strict common law rule that "every liberty given to a prisoner not authorized by law" is a voluntary escape, (*Steere v. Field, ante*,) is not applicable to military cases. Such a liberty, if the prisoner was thereby enabled to get away, would be evidence of the voluntary or the negligent act, according to circumstances.

4. See *Hough*, 480.

5. *Id.*, 479.

6. 1 Russell, 417; 2 Wharton, C. L. § 1667; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 1094.

7. 2 Hawkins, c. 28, s. 16; 2 Wharton, C. L. § 1668, note. Nor, as remarked under the head of *unauthorized release*, is it material whether the offence with which the prisoner was charged was a grave one or the reverse. This point, however, may be considered in awarding punishment.

8. *Weaver v. Com.*, 29 Pa. St. 445. Nor can the officer show, by

quired to hold the prisoner duly entrusted to his charge, without any regard whatever to the question of his guilt or innocence—an issue which cannot be, directly or indirectly, taken cognizance of in this proceeding.

It is further held by the authorities that the mere fact of escape, appearing without other circumstances, raises a presumption of at least negligence on the part of the keeper, and that the *onus* of rebutting this presumption then rests upon him;¹ and a similar rule may in general be applied to a case of escape suffered by a military officer.²

While the offences of voluntary and negligent escape are distinct, it is yet held that gross negligence may be given in evidence to show a voluntary escape;³ and further that, under an indictment for a voluntary escape, the defendant may be convicted of a negligent escape, the former offence properly including the latter.⁴ So, at military law, where the specification, under a charge of a violation of the present Article, sets forth an escape in its nature voluntary, the charge will be sustained by proof of acts of negligence only, and the accused may be convicted of both charge and specification, the proper exceptions and substitutions being made in the finding upon the latter.

The present Article applies only to officers. A non-commissioned officer, or soldier, (as a sentinel or guard,) permitting an escape, is of course liable, for his offence, to charges and trial under Art. 62. So also is the enlisted prisoner who effects his escape: if his design, however, is not merely to evade his confinement but to abandon the service, his offence is desertion.

way of defence, that the prisoner was in fact innocent of the offence charged. Nor, in a case of an alleged suffering of an escape of a prisoner while *under sentence*, would it be admissible for him to show, in defence, that the sentence was illegal.

1. "An escape implies the negligence or connivance of the officer." 1 Gabbett, 298. And see 1 Hale, P. C., 601; 1 Russell, 419; 2 Wharton, C. L. § 1668; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 1096; *Adams v. Turrentine*, 8 Ire. 147; *Blue v. Com.*, 4 Watts, 215.

2. See *O'Brien*, 156.

3. *Smith v. Hart*, 1 Brev. 146.

4. *Skinner v. White*, 9 N. H. 204; *Fairchild v. Case*, 24 Wend. 380; *Ball v. State*, 34 Ala. 262.

CHAPTER X.

THE CHARGE.

The Arrest of the accused is usually accompanied or presently followed by the service upon him of the charge or charges upon which it is proposed that he be tried. Here then may properly be presented the general subject of the military Charge, as framed, preferred, completed and served; leaving the forms of specific charges to be indicated in the Appendix.

The subject will be considered under the following heads:—

- I. Nature, form, and requisites of the Charge in general.
- II. Rules for framing the Charge derived from the law of Indictments.
- III. Rules of military law in regard to the framing of the Charge.
- IV. The Preferring of Charges.
- V. The Referring of Charges for trial.
- VI. Amendment of Charges after reference for trial.
- VII. Additional Charges.
- VIII. The Service of Charges.

I. NATURE, FORM, AND REQUISITES OF THE CHARGE. IN GENERAL.

Definition, and Formal Parts. The Charge, in the military practice, like the indictment of the criminal courts, is simply a description in writing of the alleged offence of the accused. In the great majority of cases it is the only formal written pleading upon a trial by court-martial.

In our practice this pleading, to which as a whole the name of Charge is applied, is divided into two portions; the first in order being, in contradistinction to the other, technically called "charge," and the second being termed the "specification." The office of the *charge*, in this its relative sense, is to designate the specific military offence, made punishable by an Article of

war or other statute, which is attributed to the accused : that of the *specification* is to set forth the acts or omissions of the accused claimed to constitute the offence named in the *charge*.¹

Object and Essentials. The purpose and province of the Charge are :—1st. To inform the accused of the precise offence attributed to him, so that he may intelligently admit, deny, or plead specially to, the same ; 2d. To advise the court and the reviewing authority of the nature of the accusation, and of the Article or other statute upon which it is based, so that the former may rightly and judiciously try, determine, and (upon conviction) sentence, and the latter may understandingly pass upon all the proceedings ; 3d. To so define the alleged crime or misconduct that the accused, if subsequently called to answer before any tribunal for the same act, may be enabled to plead and to prove that he has once been acquitted or convicted of the identical offence.*

Such being the nature and object of the Charge, it may be said, generally, as to its requisites—1, that it must be laid under the appropriate Article or other statute ; 2, that it must specify the material facts necessary to constitute the offence.³

1. The difference between this manner of statement and that formerly employed in the British service, where charge and specification were usually blended together, and the pleading was inartificial as compared with our form, is remarked upon in the opinion of Atty. Gen. Cushing in Col. Montgomery's case, (VII Opins. 603,) and may be noticed in James' Collection of Precedents, and the works, especially, of Hough and D' Aguilar. In the late "Rules of Procedure," however, (see "First Appendix" to same,) the forms of charges are carefully revised, and the mode of statement is more assimilated to our own.

2. See I Opins. At. Gen., 296 ; Kennedy, 69 ; Remarks of J. A. Gen. Sutton in Col. Quentin's Trial, p. 81 ; Macomb, 25 ; O'Brien, 234 ; De Hart, 287, 291-2. As to the similar purpose and use of the indictment, Bronson, C. J., in *People v. Taylor*, 3 Denio, 95, observes :—"Certainty is required to the end that the defendant may know what crime he is called upon to answer ; that the jury may be able to deliver an intelligible verdict, and the court to render the proper judgment ; and finally that the defendant may be able to plead his conviction or acquittal in bar of another prosecution for the same offence." And see 2 Hale, 87, note 7 ; 2 Hawkins, c. 25, s. 59 ; Starkie, 73 ; 1 Chitty, C. L., 168, 29 ; 2 Gabbett, 198 ; Wharton, C. P. & P. § 166 ; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 506, 07 ; Gould, 71 ; *Rex v. Horne*, Cowper, 682 ; *U. S. v. Mills*, 7 Peters, 42 ; *U. S. v. Cruikshank*, 92 U. S. 544 ; *Biggs v. People*, 8 Barb. 550 ; *tate v. Stimson*, 4 Zab. 25.

3. "If any fact or circumstance which is a necessary ingredient in the offence be omitted, such omission vitiates the indictment. * * * any fact or circumstance laid in the indictment which is not a necessary

Assimilated to the Indictment. In these particulars, and especially in the second, the Charge resembles the Indictment. These requisites, therefore, will be better understood by a reference to those rules for the framing of indictments which are most apposite to military pleadings. Our law indeed has prescribed no specific form for the Charge in the case of any offence,¹ and for this reason, and because a succinct directness in diction, as well as in action, is of the essence of the military system, the Charge is very much briefer, simpler, and less technical than is the Indictment.² But in cases of difficulty and importance, the criminal indictment will always be the model of the careful military pleader, both for the statement of essentials and their orderly and logical³ arrangement.

ingredient in the offence may be rejected as surplusage." 2 Hale, 187, note 7. "The want of a direct allegation of anything material in the description of the substance, nature, or manner of the crime, cannot be supplied by any intendment or implication whatsoever." 2 Hawkins, c. 25, s. 30. "Every fact which is an element in a *prima facie* case of guilt must be stated; otherwise there will be at least one thing which the accused person is entitled to know, whereof he is not informed." 2 Bishop, C. P. § 519. And see 1 Chitty, Pleading, 228.

1. VII Opins. At. Gen., 603; Kennedy, 69.

2. "A specification does not need to possess the technical nicety of indictments at the common law. Trials by court-martial are governed by the nature of the service which demands intelligible precision of language, but regards the substance of things rather than their forms. * * * Hence undoubtedly the most bald statement of the facts alleged as constituting the offence, provided the legal offence itself be distinctly and accurately described in such terms of precision as the rules of military jurisprudence require, will be tenable in court-martial proceedings, and will be adequate groundwork of conviction and sentence." Cushing, VII Opins., 604. "The charge or charges are, properly speaking, an indictment, and must, in their *substance*, possess all its essential requisites, although in *form* the military judicial procedure is less fettered by peculiar and customary solemnities of expression than the civil." Tytler, 209. And see Remarks of J. A. Gen. Sutton, in Col. Quentin's Trial, p. 81; O'Brien, 232; De Hart, 285, 287. In some instances the form of the indictment has been closely followed in military charges. Note a pointed example in an elaborate and technical specification under a charge of Manslaughter, in G. O. 20, Fifth Mil. Dist., 1868.

3. "All pleading is essentially a logical process." In analyzing a correct pleading, "if we take into view, with what is expressed, what is necessarily supposed or implied, we shall find in it the elements of a *good syllogism*." Gould, 4.

II. RULES FOR FRAMING THE CHARGE DERIVED FROM THE LAW OF INDICTMENTS.

The Charge to be Certain. "An important requisite in all pleading," says Gould,¹ "is *certainty*." This requisite, he adds, "implies that the matter pleaded must be clearly and distinctly stated, so that it may be fully understood by the adverse party, the counsel, the jury and the judges." Stephen² writes:—"It" (the pleading,) "must be particular or specific, as opposed to undue generality." This rule, Archbold³ remarks, is especially to be observed with the *gist* of the pleading; matters of *inducement* or explanation, for instance, not calling for the same precision. It is further well said in this connection by Stephen⁴:—"To combine with the requisite certainty and precision the greatest possible brevity, is now justly considered as the perfection of pleading."

But this authority⁵ subjoins the qualification that—"No greater particularity is required than the nature of the thing pleaded will conveniently admit." Or, as it is expressed by Archbold⁶—"Where the offence cannot be stated with complete certainty, it is sufficient to state it with such certainty as it is capable of." And by the former writer the further exception is mentioned,⁷ that—"Less particularity is required when the facts

1. Page 71. And see 2 Hawkins, c. 25, s. 71, 74; 1 Chitty, P., 169; 2 Gabbett, 197, 227; Wharton, C. P. & P. § 151, 166; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 323; U. S. v. Mills, 7 Peters, 142; State v. Stimson, 4 Zab. 25. In the last case the court say:—"But the particularity required is not such as to screen the offender from conviction, or to embarrass the prosecution with useless technicalities."

2. Page 132.

3. Page 88, note 1. And see 2 Gabbett, 199, 236; Stephen, 132; Wharton, C. P. & P. § 165. The classification by Gould, (p. 141,) of the averments in civil, applicable also to criminal, pleadings, may be noted in this connection, as follows:—"All facts alleged in good pleading consist either, 1, of the *gist*, or substance, of the complaint or defence; or, 2, of matter in *inducement*," (*i. e.* introduction or explanation,) "or, 3, of matter of *aggravation*;" everything else, he adds, being "*surplusage*."

4. Page 422.

5. Page 367.

6. Page 88, note 1.

7. Page 370. An indictment need not negative what is matter of defence. 1 Bishop, C. P. § 638; U. S. v. Stevens, 4 Wash. 547. "In

lie more in the knowledge of the opposite party than of the pleader."

The rule as to *certainty* is, as a general principle, applicable to the military Charge in the same manner as to the criminal indictment or declaration of the civil practice,¹ and will properly be observed in framing specifications. Because, however, of the exceptional authority possessed by courts-martial in their findings,² of correcting errors and imperfections of detail in specifications, by substituting the true item or term, as indicated by testimony, for the uncertain or incorrect one originally inserted in a military pleading will more readily admit of an uncertain statement, (in an allegation, for example, as to amount, number, quantity or other particular of description,) than will an indictment.

Not to Contain Surplusage. Strictly, any allegation in a Charge, not properly required for the due and full statement of the offence, is surplusage.³ Stephen,⁴ in laying it down that surplusage, which he defines "unnecessary matter of whatever description," is to be avoided, divides it into—(1) "matter wholly foreign," and (2) "matter which, though not wholly foreign, does not require to be stated." Military writers also condemn "superfluous" or "extraneous" matter,⁵ which is however to be distinguished from matter of inducement or aggravation.

generally, all matters of defence must come from the defendant, and may not be anticipated or stated by the prosecutor." 1 Chitty, P., 231. In *Ralph Boy's Case*, 1 Ventris, 217, Chief Justice Hale is quoted as saying of the allegation of matter which should come more properly from the other side:—" 'Tis like leaping before one come to the still."

¹ See Fyler, 209, 214; Kennedy, 69; O'Brien, 234; De Hart, 2. While the general rules of pleading are substantially the same in criminal and the civil procedure, the practice of the courts is to require greater strictness in criminal than in civil pleadings; and in the former greater strictness in indictments for the graver, especially the capital crimes, than in those for mere misdemeanors. 1 Bishop, C. P. § 8.

Military offences," says Kennedy, (p. 73,) are, "with a few rare exceptions, of the nature of misdemeanors."

² See Chapter XIX.

³ See Gould, 41, 142; 1 Chitty, P., 173; 2 Gabbett, 200; Wharfedale, C. P. & P. § 158, 1 Bishop, C. P., Ch. XXXII.

⁴ Page 111, 3.

⁵ Goulden, 61. Hughes, 143; Macomb, 26; O'Brien, 234-5; Hunt, 200.

Mere surplusage will always be carefully winnowed out of his pleading by the careful draftsman. If allowed materially to encumber a specification, it may prove a source of considerable embarrassment to a court-martial, in bewildering the issue, and particularly in raising in their minds a question whether *proof* of such matter, in whole or in part, may not be called for. In point of fact, however, surplusage never requires to be proved, and is not to be taken into consideration by the court in their findings or judgment. In the civil practice, it is often, where wholly foreign, stricken out on motion. But if left to form a part of a pleading or Charge, it cannot affect its legal validity, since *utile per inutile non vitiatur*.¹

Not to be Repugnant or Inconsistent. That is to say, that the material portions of the Charge are not to be opposed in meaning or effect, or to contradict each other. This rule is repeated by all the principal authorities, civil and military.² It is an important one, since a failure to observe it may result in nullifying the Charge, or at least the specification in which the repugnancy occurs.³

Nor Ambiguous. That is to say, the Charge must not contain allegations of which the meaning is obscure or equivocal, and which are susceptible of different interpretations.⁴

Nor Argumentative.⁵ Or, as it is expressed by Stephen⁶—pleadings “must advance their positions of fact in an absolute

1. See Stephen, 424; Gould, 142; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 440, 478.

2. Stephen, 377; Gould, 144; Starkie, 273; 1 Archbold, 91; 1 Chitty, P., 173, 231; 2 Gabbett, 199, 235; Wharton, C. P. & P. § 256; 1 Bishop, C. P., Ch. XXXIV; Hough, 41; Kennedy, 76; De Hart, 287.

3. “Repugnancy is two inconsistent allegations in one pleading. As both cannot be true, and there is no means of ascertaining which is meant, the whole will be as though neither existed.” 1 Bishop, C. P. § 489. “It takes off much from the credit of an indictment that those by whom it is found have contradicted themselves.” 2 Hawkins, c. 25, s. 62.

4. Stephen, 378; 1 Chitty, C. L., 231; 2 Gabbett, 200; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 510. But “where a matter is capable of different meanings, that will be taken by the court which will support the proceedings, not that which would defeat them.” Chitty, 231.

5. “The object being to communicate facts and not reasons, an argumentative form of expression, obscuring the facts, is not adequate.” Bishop, C. P. § 508. And see Gould, 55; Kennedy, 76.

6. Page 384.

form, and not leave them to be collected by inference and argument only."

Matter of Evidence not to be Stated.¹ It is not good pleading, in alleging a fact, to state the circumstances proving or tending to prove its truth.² Such are the acts, occurrences and matters of description which should properly form part of the testimony of the witnesses. Such indeed are *some* matters of aggravation, although such matters are to a reasonable extent allowed to be recited and are not unfrequently added in a military Charge.³ But, strictly, the only facts apposite to be stated are those constituting the offence in law. Where, however, the Charge is of a general character, as where it is laid under the 61st or the 62d Article, the circumstances, and matters of inducement and aggravation, surrounding the alleged punishable act of the party are often required to be more fully set forth than in the case of one of the exact offences, and the rule against pleading matters of evidence is not to be so rigorously applied.⁴

Nor Matter of Law. Any statement of the law, or of conclusions or presumptions of law, is altogether out of place in a good pleading.⁵ As it is observed by Gould⁶—"Judges are

1 Stephen. 342; 1 Chitty. C. L., 231; U. S. v. Bachelder, 2 Gallison, 15.

2 Stephen. 342. This author adds, p. 346, that this rule tends perhaps more than any other to prevent "minuteness and prolixity of detail."

3 The statement of the law by O'Brien, p. 234, that—"All aggravating circumstances of the guilty act must be alleged in the specification, or they cannot be put in evidence, is, of course, erroneous.

4 As a limited rule, to that excluding matters of evidence, may be noted here the one given separately by Stephen, p. 353, that—"It is not necessary to allege circumstances necessarily implied."

5 Stephen, 343, 344; 1 Chitty, C. L., 231; 2 Gilbert, 199, 229; Wharton, 177; 1 N. S. 321; 2 Bishop, C. P., § 324, 314, 315; Rex v. James, Kaye, 1 Doug. 354; 10 C. S. 2d Almond, Whart. Prec. 1061, 1062; 10 C. S. 2d 351. It is not enough, and never has been, to charge that we have no more right and reason, as is now inferential from the facts, than our accusers, as is charged in the record. You may not charge reason, nature or humanity, or sound general principles. You must set out the facts of the case, as in the particular case." In some cases, in fact, in some instances, in which the constituents are simple and general, the same rule is not strictly observed, as in cases mentioned in relation to Section 100.

6 Page 43.

always presumed to know judicially what the law is; and have therefore no occasion to be informed of it by the pleadings." As to conclusions of law, it is the business of the court to make these for itself, deducing them from the facts as they are stated and appear in evidence. To assume to express such conclusions in a Charge or indictment is irrelevant and impertinent.

Nor Matters of which the Court will take Judicial Notice, ex officio. It is remarked by Stephen¹ that, "besides points of law, there are many other matters of a public kind of which the court takes official notice, and with respect to which it is, for the same reason, unnecessary to make allegation in pleading." Such are—the law of nations; the provisions of the Constitution, public statutes, executive proclamations, and, in the military practice, the formal General Orders, circulars, and other publications to the army emanating from the War Department; the political frame-work, officers and operations of the government; matters of public history; the powers of the President and heads of departments; the "established and usual course" of the proceedings of Congress; the main geographical features and the local divisions of the country; the "meaning of words in the vernacular language;" the "course of time;" the "legal weights and measures;" the current coins and other circulating medium.² "In fine," adds Greenleaf,³ "courts will generally take notice of whatever ought to be generally known within the limits of their jurisdiction." All matters of this description, therefore, do not need to be alleged, or enlarged upon, as facts, in the pleading or Charge; such allusion to them as will indicate what is meant or referred to being all that is necessary.⁴

Statement of Name, Office, Rank, &c. The name of the accused should be given with such particularity as to identify him and distinguish him from any other person.⁵ It is held by

1. Page 349. And see 1 Chitty, C. L., 231.

2. See 2 Hawkins, c. 25, s. 100; Stephen, 347-349; 1 Greenl. Ev. 5, 6.

3. 1 Ev. § 6.

4. Stephen, 348.

5. See Stephen, 301; Starkie, 49, 203; 1 Chitty, C. L., 202; 1 Archbold, 78; Wharton, C. P. & P. § 96.

the U. S. Supreme Court,¹ and generally by the courts of the States,² that the middle name is no part of the legal name, and may be omitted in stating it. The good pleader, however, will prefer to add it, or its initial, if within his knowledge; and it must be added where necessary to distinguish the person. Where the accused is known by two names, as in a case of a soldier re-enlisting under an assumed name in violation of the 50th Article of war, and it is doubtful which name is his true one, he may be distinguished by either, the other being added under an *alias*.³ The rank, office, regiment, corps, capacity, &c., of the accused are, by invariable usage, set forth in a military pleading, and should always be added whether the accused be an officer or enlisted man, or a retainer, camp-follower, &c.⁴ If no military rank, office, or employment were given, the presumption would be that the party was not within the jurisdiction of a court-martial. Where since the date of his alleged offence the accused has been promoted, he should properly be designated at the commencement of the specification as of his present rank, but in describing the commission of the offence, the rank which he held

1. "The law knows of but one Christian name, and the omission or insertion of the middle name, or of the initial letter of that name, is immaterial." *Games v. Stiles*, 14 Peters, 327. And see *Keene v. Meade*, 3 Peters, 7; *Lessee of Dunn v. Games*, 1 McLean, 321; also 11 Opins. At. Gen., 332; III Id., 467.

2. *Hart v. Lindsey*, 17 N. H. 235; *Franklin v. Tallmadge*, 5 John. 84; *Roosevelt v. Gardiner*, 2 Cow. 463; *Bratton v. Seymour*, 4 Watts 329; *Price v. State*, 19 Ohio, 53; *State v. Martin*, 10 Mo. 361; *State v. Williams*, 20 Iowa, 98; *Erschine v. Davis*, 25 Ills. 251; *State v. Manning*, 14 Texas, 402; *People v. Lockwood*, 6 Cal. 206, &c.

"Junior," or "Jr.," is no part of the legal name. 1 Bishop, C. P. § 687, and cases cited.

3. See Simmons § 390; and compare 1 Chitty, C. L., 203; 2 Galbett, 214, 217; Wharton, C. P. & P. § 99, 103; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 681.

4. Tytler, 214; Kennedy, 70; Simmons § 388; G. O. 22, Army of the Potomac, 1861. It is never necessary in a military charge to set out the fact of the appointment or commission of an officer. "In an indictment against a public officer for a breach of duty, it is sufficient to state generally that he is such officer, without setting forth his appointment to the office." 1 Chitty, C. L., 231. In military charges it is not the practice even to state, by a direct allegation, that the accused, (or other officer referred to,) is such an officer; the description of the office being merely added, as a designation, to the name of the party—as "A. Captain, First Regiment of Infantry, United States Army;" or "Cap A. B., First Regiment," &c.

at the time should be stated.¹ As by the words—‘he the said A. B. then being,’ (specifying his former rank and office,) or in terms to such effect. And so, in the case of any other change in the military status, as of regiment, arm, corps, &c., which has intervened since the alleged criminal act. Errors, however, in the statement of rank, regiment, &c., are such as may be corrected by the court in the Finding.

Similar rules apply, though with less strictness, to the statement of the name, office, &c., of a person or persons injured, disobeyed, disrespectfully addressed, &c., by the accused,² or other party material to be mentioned in the pleading.³

Statement of Time and Place. While it is laid down as a general rule by the authorities that the *time*, (year, month, and day of the month,) and the *place*, of the alleged criminal act, should be stated with certainty, it is also held that, where not of the *essence* of the offence, the *precise* day and *exact* locality of its commission are immaterial and need not be averred; it being sufficient simply to allege a time and place within the jurisdiction of the court.⁴ In military charges there is still greater margin allowable, since the *place* or region of jurisdiction is much more extensive than that of the county, district, State, &c., to which the jurisdiction of the criminal courts is limited. Thus if a specification to a military charge is so framed as to advise the accused of the particular act of offence intended to be alleged, and enable him to plead a former conviction or acquittal if subsequently brought to trial on account of the same act, it will be strictly sufficient in law if it set forth a *time* within the limitation of Art. 103, and a *place* within the United States,⁵ (or within

1. See III Opins. At. Gen., 548. The mere fact, however, that the rank of the accused is misstated does not vitiate a specification, if there is no question as to the identity of the party. G. O. 38, Army of the Potomac, 1863.

2. G. C. M. O. 61, Dept. of the Mo., 1871. And compare *State v. Swin*, 5 Blackf. 343; Wharton, C. P. & P. § 109.

3. See *Butler v. State*, 5 Blackf. 280. If not known by name, the party may be described as a “certain person unknown.” 1 Bishop, C. P. § 378; Wharton, C. P. & P. § 111.

4. 1 Chitty, C. L., 224; 1 Archbold, 85; Stephen, 392; Wharton, C. P. & P. § 120, 139; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 375, 386; *U. S. v. Burch*, 1 Ranch, C. C. 37; *Johnson v. U. S.*, 3 McLean, 89; *McBryde v. State*, 1 Ga. 203.

5. “The Secretary of War directs that it be announced to the Army,

the territory of a foreign country when, by reason of war or otherwise, the army is authorized to be there.¹)

But this latitude need rarely be availed of, and it is altogether desirable that the time and place should be stated *exactly*, or nearly so as practicable. Where they are not precisely known it is the practice to describe the offence as having been committed "on or about" a certain date and "at or near" a certain locality named; the date and locality specified being the nearest ascertainable.² Where the offence is one which has been committed from one day to another, or commenced on one day and completed on another, it may properly be alleged in the specification to have been committed on or between certain days named; if these days are so far apart that the offence intended to be charged cannot reasonably be distinguished, the pleading is defective, and, upon exception taken by the accused, by motion to strike out,⁴ or otherwise, should be required by the court to be amended.⁵

In some cases the offence committed is of a *continuing* character, extending over a considerable period of time and exhib-

for the information and guidance of courts-martial, that although in the specification to charges, time and place ought to be laid with as much certainty and truth as may be practicable, still it is *sufficient in law* to prove the offence to have been committed at any other place and within the jurisdiction of the court." G. O. 16 of 1853. And see Simmons § 394; De Hart, 288; DIGEST, 150-1. And compare 1 O. At. Gen., 295-6, (Lieut. Gassaway's Case.) That time and place need not be strictly *proved* as laid, see G. O. 6, Dept. of Utah, 1861; D. First Mil. Dist., 1867; DIGEST, 152.

1. See Chapter VIII.

2. Simmons § 394; Harcourt, 115; Macomb, 25; O'Brien, De Hart, 291; DIGEST, 151. These alternative forms would probably not be regarded as admissible by the criminal courts. See U. Crittenden, Hemphill, 61.

3. DIGEST, 151-2. And see Simmons § 394; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 397.

4. See Chapter XVI.

5. DIGEST, 152. And see cases in G. O. 193, Dept. of the Potomac, 1862; Do. 98, Dept. of N. Mexico, 1862; Do. 36, Dept. of the West, 1863. In Capt. Trenor's Case, published in G. O. 4 of 1842, the accused was charged with drunkenness on duty between Sept. 15 and Dec. 31st, 1840, and objected to the specification as including "a length of time as to prevent the possibility of either disproving it or defending himself against it." His objection was sustained by the court, and the charge and specification were "accordingly thrown out." The proceedings were approved by the President.

a general habit or course of conduct. In such cases, where distinct acts cannot readily be separated and attributed to particular dates, it is allowable to charge the misconduct in form somewhat as follows: 'This during (or in) the months of ——,' (specifying the particular months or other periods.) Such pleading, however, is unfrequent in practice, and not to be favored where it can well be avoided.

As it has been held by the Judge Advocate General, the allegations of time and place may be *omitted altogether*, without affecting the legal validity of the proceedings or sentence, provided the same sufficiently appear from the testimony in the record.² Such an omission, however, would be negligent and hazardous, and is now of rare occurrence.³

The *hour* of the day or night at which a certain alleged act took place need never be specified, unless part of the gist or essence of the transaction upon which the charge is based.⁴ Thus, in a charge against a soldier for sleeping on his post as a sentinel, it will generally be desirable, as more accurate, to designate at what hour, or between what hours, he was found asleep, in order to identify the time with that of his regular turn of duty.⁵

Statement of Quality, Quantity, Number, Kind, Value, &c. Especially where a party is charged with the larceny, embezzlement, &c., of property, it is proper that the quality, quantity, number, kind, value, denomination, &c., of the moneys or articles stolen, appropriated, &c., should be specified sufficiently clearly to identify the same,⁶ although the utmost exact-

1. See a recent instance in G. C. M. O. 10 of 1878.

2. DIGEST, 152; G. O. 64, Middle Dept., 1863; Do. 57, First Mil. Dist., 1867.

3. See G. C. M. O. 42, Dept. of Texas, 1875, where, no date being given in the specification, and none appearing in the testimony, the proceedings were disapproved.

4. "It is not necessary to mention the hour in the indictment; except perhaps in cases of *burglary*, where it is usually laid for the purpose of showing with more certainty that the offence was committed in the night and not during the twilight." 2 Gabbett, 222.

5. See Simmons § 394.

6. Stephen, 296; Starkie, 218; 1 Chitty, C. L., 235; 2 Gabbett, 232; Wharton, C. P. & P. § 206; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 576.

ness is not required.¹ The *value* of the property stolen is particular held especially essential to be stated in an indictment for larceny; since "in order to make the stealing of any article larceny at the common law, it must be proven to be of some value."² In a military charge there is not the same necessity for accuracy in the statement of quantity, number, or amount since the court in its Finding can always rectify the item according to the testimony. As to value, a specification which omits to assign a value to an article alleged to have been the subject of larceny would not be held defective if the article were such presumably to be of some value, at least to the owner. The value of stolen property is in fact frequently omitted to be stated in a military charge. It should be alleged, however, if only the purpose of assisting the court in determining whether the accused, upon conviction, may, (in view of the law of the State &c., as to the punishment,) be sentenced to imprisonment in a penitentiary under Art. 97 of the code.

Statement of Writings. A writing may, ordinarily, be set out *verbatim* or in substance only. But where its terms enter into the very gist of the offence, as in the case of an instrument alleged to have been *forged*, a precise copy should be inserted if practicable.³ So, in all cases where, although it may not be necessary to give it, a copy is professed to be exhibited, it should

1. See under the rule as to Certainty, *ante*, that only such particulars are required as the nature of the subject reasonably admits of.

2. State *v.* Tillery, 1 N. & McC., 11. "It is necessary that some specific value should be assigned to whatever articles are charged as subjects of larceny. An indictment cannot be sustained for stealing any thing of no intrinsic or artificial value." Wharton, C. P. & P. § 21. The *ownership* of property or money stolen or embezzled should be set forth. 1 Bishop, C. P. § 581, 582, &c. Where the name of the owner is unknown and cannot be ascertained, he may be referred to as a 'person unknown.'

3. Wharton, C. P. & P. § 167; 2 Bishop, C. P. § 403. "Where only the written instrument is included in the offence, that part alone is necessary to be set out." De Hart, 293. "In stating a libel or perjury, it is necessary only to set forth so much of the matter as renders the offence complete, provided the part omitted does not in any way alter the sense of that which is set out." 1 Chitty, C. L., 235. In an indictment for perjury it is only essential to set forth the substance of the oath, or that portion in regard to which the perjury is alleged to have been committed. People *v.* Warner, 5 Wend. 271; Campbell People, 8 Id. 638.

of course be a copy, *i. e.* in the exact words of the original.¹ If a writing essential or desirable to be set forth literally has been lost or destroyed, or is in the possession of the accused, the fact will properly be averred by way of explanation of its non-statement, and its substance be given as nearly as practicable.² So, where its contents are indecent and improper to be recited, this should be explained, the substance and effect of the paper being at the same time presented. A writing, of which the original is expressed in a foreign language, should in general be given in English, with an averment to the effect that the version is a translation.³ When the substance or purport only of a writing is stated, its terms should be expressed according to their legal effect; that is to say as they operate or take effect in law.⁴ In military charges, where the writing is of a brief and simple character—as in the case of a general or special order alleged to have been disobeyed by the accused, or an official communication alleged to be disrespectful, &c.—it is preferable to recite it in full. Where the writing is more elaborate, or contains an extended array of figures or other details, its substance or material

1. A copy in pleading is usually introduced by some such expression as—"in these words;" "as follows, viz;" "in the words and figures following, to wit;" "of which the following is a copy;" or, more technically, "in tenor following;"—the term *tenor* being employed in pleading to indicate a transcript of the original instrument, in contradistinction to *substance* or *purport*. When the substance only of the writing is to be set out, the ordinary introduction is—"in substance as follows, viz;" "to the effect," (or "purport,") "following namely, that," &c. See 1 Chitty, C. L., 233; 2 Gabbett, 201; Wharton, C. P. & P. § 168-170; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 559-561, and cases cited. "Marks of quotation used in an indictment for libel, to distinguish the libellous matter, are not sufficient, *per se*, to indicate that the words thus designated are the very words of the alleged libel." *Com. v. Wright*, 1 Cush. 64.

2. Wharton, C. P. & P. § 176.

3. See 1 Chitty, C. L., 175, where is stated the general rule that indictments, which were at an early period written in Latin, "must be in English." Hale, (2 P. C., 169,) writing about the middle of the seventeenth century, says:—"Regularly every indictment ought to be in Latin, as all pleadings in the courts of law ought to be; and it is of excellent use because, it being a fixed regular language, it is not capable of so many changes and alterations as happen in vulgar languages." In *Rex v. Goldstein, R. & R.*, C. C., 473, an indictment for the forgery of a Prussian treasury note, not containing a translation of the same, was held defective.

4. Stephen, 389; *U. S. v. Keen*, 1 McLean, 441.

portion only will preferably be set out.¹ The original or a copy may however be appended to the Charge, a reference to the same as thereto annexed and forming part of the Charge being made in the specification;² this arrangement however is rare in the military practice.

Statement of Words Spoken. The authorities are quite strict in holding that spoken words, (where not too indecent, in which case their substance may be given,³) should be literally set forth in an indictment, when their character and effect—as that they are defamatory, scandalous, blasphemous, &c.—is the gist of the accusation.⁴ Similarly in a military charge such words should be recited as uttered, or as nearly so as practicable. Thus a specification to a Charge under Art. 19, or Art. 20, which averred merely that the accused used disrespectful language against the President, or toward his commanding officer, without stating the words or at least their substance, would be defective, and the court, upon exception taken, would properly require it to be amended.

Statement of Statutory Offences. In setting forth in an indictment an act made an offence by statute, the *strict* rule requires that the words of the description should be closely followed;⁵

1. Thus, in charging the offence of procuring a double payment, the pay account need not be set forth in full, though this has sometimes been done.

2. *Com. v. Tarbox*, 1 Cush. 72.

3. See *Bombay R.*, 2, 3; also instances in *G. O. 6*, Dept. of Utah, 1861; *Do. 32*, Div. Atlantic, 1878.

4. 2 *Hawkins*, c. 25, s. 59; 2 *Gabbett*, 232; *Wharton*, C. P. & P. § 203. In *Rex v. How*, *Strange*, 699, it was held that it was not sufficient to allege that the defendant used scandalous, threatening and contemptuous words against a magistrate, but that the words themselves must be set out. In *Rex v. Popplewell*, *Id.* 686, the report is—"Conviction for profane cursing and swearing was quashed for want of the particular oaths and curses being set out."

5. 1 *Chitty*, C. L., 281; 2 *Gabbett*, 239; *Wharton*, C. P. & P. § 220; 1 *Bishop*, C. P., Ch. XXXIX. "Where the words of the statute are descriptive of the nature of the offence, the indictment must follow the very words, and expressly charge the offence upon the defendant." *State v. Gibbons*, 1 *South*. 51. "It is a general rule that all indictments upon statutes, especially the most penal, must state all the circumstances which constitute the definition of the offence in the Act, so as to bring the defendant precisely within it." *State v. Foster*, 3 *McC.* 444. "If a part of the description of the offence consists of a

and it is always *sufficient*,¹ and safest, to so follow them. It has been held, however, in some of the U. S. courts that the *exact* language of the statute need not be employed, provided the description be adopted with a substantial accuracy.²

As all military offences are statutory offences, this rule, (with its qualification,) applies directly to military charges; but the Articles of war, under which nearly all such charges are laid, are so brief, and so simple in their terms, that there is in general no difficulty in framing allegations to meet their provisions. The only two points ruled upon by the authorities in this connection which need be noted here are, (1) that when the Article or other statute specifies an exception or exceptions to its general operation, it will in general be proper to negative the same in describing the offence in the specification;³ and, (2) that where the Article or other statute enumerates two or more similar forms of offence or phases of the same offence in a disjunctive form, they should, (if averred together,) be averred conjunctively;⁴ or, in other words, where criminal acts, which may be imputed in the same count or Charge without duplicity, are stated in the disjunctive in the statute, they should, if pleaded together, be ex-

negative proposition, it is as necessary in an indictment for that offence to state the negative as the affirmative part of the description." U. S. v. McCormick, 1 Cranch, C. C., 598.

1. U. S. v. Armstrong, 5 Philad. 277; People v. Taylor, 3 Denio, 93. And see U. S. v. Mills, 7 Peters, 142; State v. Abbott, 11 Foster, 434.

2. See U. S. v. Bachelder, 2 Gallison, 18; Do. v. Deming, 4 McLean, 3. Hawkins, (vol. 2, c. 25, s. 100,) mentions, as a good reason for not requiring the highest exactness in the statement of statutory offences, that—"the judges are bound *ex officio* to take notice of all public statutes." And see 1 Bishop, C. P. § 608.

3. "If there be any exception contained in the same clause of the statute which creates the offence, the indictment must show negatively that the defendant, or the subject of the indictment, does not come within the exception. If the exception or proviso be in a subsequent clause or statute, or although in the same section, yet if it be not incorporated with the enacting clause by any words of reference, it is, in that case, matter of defence for the other party, and need not be negatived in the pleading." Monthly Law Reporter, 6 N. S., 77. And see U. S. v. Pond, 2 Curtis, 85; Com. v. Maxwell, 1 Pick. 141; 1 Ben. & Leard, L. C. C., 250, notes.

4. Stephen, 386; 2 Gabbett, 200; Gould, 55, note; Wharton, C. P. § 161, 162; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 585, 586; Rex v. Stocker, 1 Salk. 12; Rex v. Middlehurst, 1 Burr, 399; U. S. v. Almeida, Whart. Prec. 61, note; State v. Morton, 27 Verm. 310; State v. Price, 6 Halst. 13; Raswick v. Com., 2 Va. Cas. 356; Kirby v. State, 1 Ohio St. 185. Where a statute, defining crimes and prescribing their punishment,

pressed in the conjunctive form.¹ This point will be further illustrated in treating of "double" pleading.

Statement of Intent. It is laid down, generally, by Chitty,² that—"where an evil intent accompanying an act is necessary to constitute such act a crime, the intent must be alleged in the indictment." But in military cases the intent of an act need not be added to the statement of its commission, unless required to be by the terms of the statute on the subject, or, in other words, unless the article or other statute creating and describing the offence makes the intent, in terms, an element of the criminal act.³ Thus Arts. 3, 5, 8, 14, 15, 16, 27, 45, 50 and 59 declare that if officer or soldier, as the case may be, "knowingly," or "wilfully," or "knowingly and wilfully," commit a certain act, he shall be amenable to trial and punishment. So, in Art. 60, the terms "knowing," "knowingly," "knowingly and wilfully," "wrongfully and knowingly," and "with intent to defraud," are employed as indicating the purpose with which the different acts denounced must be committed to constitute them offences within the law. In all these instances the *intent* should properly be expressly averred in the Charge, and in the word or words in which it is designated in the statute. On the other hand, in cases of crimes which in their very nature involve a malicious or wrongful intent, as those of manslaughter, robbery, larceny, rape, perjury, &c., specified in Art. 58, or chargeable, (when directly prejudicing the service,) under Art. 62, while the common law form of indictment may be followed, it is allowable to charge the offence simply by its name, without employing in the specification words expressive of the intent, as "wilfully," "maliciously," "feloniously," or the like.

Different Statements of Same Offence. It is laid down by Chitty⁴ that—"It is frequently advisable, when the crime is

describes disjunctively under a single head certain offences which are of such a character that a single transaction may include the commission of one or of more than one of them, a count of an indictment charging them conjunctively may be sustained by proof of the commission of only one of them." U. S. v. Armstrong, 5 Philad. 273.

1. The 60th Article of war is the most conspicuous *military statute* of the class indicated.

2. C. L., 233.

3. See Simmons § 407; De Hart, 295; G. O. 28 of 1859.

4. 1 C. L., 248.

of a complicated nature, or it is uncertain whether the evidence will support the higher and more criminal part of the charge, or the charge precisely as laid, to insert two or more counts in the indictment." And Wharton¹ writes—"Every cautious pleader will insert as many counts as will be necessary to provide for every possible contingency in the evidence; and this the law permits." In military cases where the offence falls apparently equally within the purview of two or more articles of war, or where the legal character of the act of the accused cannot be precisely known or defined till developed by the proof, it is not unfrequent in cases of importance to state the accusation under two or more Charges.² If the two articles impose different penalties, it may, for this additional reason, be desirable to prefer separate charges, since the court will thus be invested with a wider discretion as to the punishment. Where, however, the case falls quite clearly within the definition of a certain specific article, to resort to plural charges is neither good pleading nor just to the accused. At most, in such cases, a single additional charge under Art. 62 should in general suffice. An unnecessary multiplication of forms of charge for the same offence is always to be avoided.³ In view of the peculiar authority of a court-martial to make corrections and substitutions in its Finding, and to convict of a breach of discipline where the proof fails to establish the specific act alleged, the charging of the same offence under different forms is much less frequently called for in the military than in the civil practice.

Rule as to Duplicity. An indictment or count in which two or more separate and distinct offences, whether of the same or a different nature, are set forth together is said to be *double*, and such a pleading is bad on account of *duplicity*.⁴

1. C. P. & P. § 297. And see 1 Archbold, 93; Com. v. Webster, 5 Cush. 321.

2. "The commander who prefers a charge may, in the exercise of a just and legal discretion, when the act may fall under different articles of war, elect under which to charge it, or may charge it variously as in the several counts of an indictment." G. O. 18 of 1859.

3. See G. O. 19, Dept. of the Columbia, 1872; G. C. M. O. 95, Div. Pacific & Dept. of Cal., 1881.

4. 1 Chitty, C. L., 253; Starkie, 271; 1 Archbold, 95; Stephen, 251, 262; 2 Gabbett, 201, 234; Gould, 389; Wharton, C. P. & P. § 243; 1 Bishop, C. P., Ch. XXVIII; also Hough, (Practice,) 40; Simmons § 401; Griffiths, 61; De Hart, 298; DIGEST, 150.

This rule, however, does not apply to the stating together, in the same count, of several distinct criminal acts, provided the same all form parts of the same transaction and substantially complete a single occasion of offence. Thus it has been held that assault and battery and false imprisonment, when committed together or in immediate sequence, may be laid in the same count without duplicity, since "collectively they constitute but one offence."¹ So it is held not double pleading to allege in the same count the larceny of several distinct articles appropriated at the same time and place.²

A further description of cases is to be noted as not within the rule, or as constituting an exception to the rule,—*viz.* cases of *statutory* offences or phases of offence of the same nature, classified in the enactment as of the same species and made similarly punishable. In a case of this class it was observed by a U. S. court³ that the several criminal acts indicated may be regarded as "representing each a stage in the same offence, and therefore properly to be coupled in one count."

This was a case which arose under a statute of March 3, 1825, which provided that any person who should "secrete, embezzle, or destroy a mail of letters," should be subject to a certain punishment: it was held that a count, alleging that the defendant "did secrete and embezzle" a mail, was not bad for duplicity.⁴ In the further case of *U. S. v. Armstrong*,⁵ the defendant was accused of a violation of an Act of March 3, 1823, in which it was declared that any one who "shall transmit to, or present at, or cause or procure to be transmitted to or presented at, any office or officer of the United States, any * * * writing in support of, or in relation to, any account or claim, with intent to defraud the United States, knowing the same to be false, * * * forged," &c., shall be punished as for a felony with fine and imprisonment. The count charged the defendant with "transmitting to and presenting at, and causing and procuring to be transmitted to and presented at, the office of the Commissioner of Pensions

¹ *Francisco v. State*, 4 Zab. 30.

² *State v. Williams*, 10 Humph. 101; *Lorton v. State*, 7 Mo. 55; *Whetton v. P. & P.* § 252. And see case in DIGEST, 150 § 15.

³ *U. S. v. Sander*, 6 McLean, 600.

⁴ And see *U. S. v. Mills*, 7 Peters, 142; *U. S. v. Bachelder*, 2 Gallison 15.

⁵ 4 Philad. 273.

a forged writing, for the fraudulent purpose of obtaining a soldier's bounty land, though the only act of the defendant was putting the forged letter with the guilty purpose into the post office at Philadelphia, directed to the Commissioner of Pensions at Washington." The indictment was held good by Grier, J.¹

This latter case has been the more fully cited as being peculiarly apposite to the subject of the framing of military charges under the statute of March 2, 1863, now incorporated in the military code as the 60th Article of war; the same being *in pari materia* with the said enactment of 1823, which was indeed its original in our legislation. Upon the principle illustrated by the cases cited, the similar criminal acts specified in the separate paragraphs of Art. 60 may, in general, be joined in the same Charge without incurring the fault of duplicity. Thus it may be alleged that the accused did make and cause to be made, and present and cause to be presented, for payment, a claim, &c., knowing the same to be fraudulent, &c.; or did forge and counterfeit, and cause and procure to be forged and counterfeited, a signature, &c.; or did embezzle, and knowingly and wilfully misappropriate and apply to his own use, property of the United States, &c.²

The point under consideration is illustrative of the rule of pleading statutory offences heretofore considered, that, where acts which may be charged together without duplicity are expressed in the statute disjunctively, they should, when averred together, be expressed conjunctively; all the adjudged cases last cited being instances of conjunctive statements of matters of offence detailed in the disjunctive form in the enactment.

But notwithstanding the form of statement thus sanctioned, the careful military pleader will always preferably set forth *by itself* the form of the offence of the accused *where it can be clearly distinguished*, instead of coupling or blending it with another form in the same specification. Thus, if it is clear that the accused *personally* presented the claim alleged to be fraudulent,

1. See the similar ruling in the late case of *U. S. v. Hull*, 4 McCrary, 74, and compare *State v. Haney*, 2 Dev. & Bat. 403; *Rasnick v. Com.*, 2 Va. Cas. 356; *State v. Morton*, 27 Vt. 310; *Clifford v. State*, 9 Wis. 327; *Mackey v. State*, 3 Ohio St. 362; *Starkie*, 246; 1 *Bishop*, P. § 586 and cases cited.

2. But the *stealing* made punishable in the same clause would not properly be charged conjunctively, (or disjunctively,) with *embezzle-ment*, the two being distinct offences in law.

he will properly and preferably be charged simply with presenting, and not with presenting and causing to be presented. If when the charges are preferred, it is doubtful whether the claim was presented personally or through another person, the offence may well be pleaded conjunctively according to the forms above cited.

It may be added that *double pleading*, consisting sometimes in joining two or more separate and distinct instances of the same offence, but more frequently in blending different specific offences, in one specification, has been a not uncommon fault in our service, and has been repeatedly condemned in Orders.¹

It remains also to notice, under this head, the two minor points indicated by the authorities—that mere surplusage or immaterial matter cannot avail to make a pleading double;² while, on the other hand, matter which is material may have such effect though it be defectively pleaded.³

Joinder. Although a count of an indictment may not regularly charge more than one distinct and separate offence, it may, in a proper case, charge that offence against several defendants as having been committed by them conjointly. As it is laid down by the authorities,—“When more than one join in the commission of an offence, all, or any number of them, may be jointly indicted for it, or each of them may be indicted separately.”

* * * “There are some offences in which the agency of two or more is essential,” and, in an indictment for which, “less than two cannot possibly be joined,” as in conspiracy and riot. But whenever the offence is, in its nature, *several*, there can be no joinder.⁶

1. See G. O. 3, 83, Dept. of the Mo., 1863; Do. 49, Dept. of the Ohio, 1864; Do. 9, Dept. of the Gulf, 1866; G. C. M. O. 80 of 1872; Do. 8, Dept. of Texas, 1873. The instances of this fault appear to have been more frequent and marked in the English service. See, for example, the cases in James' Collection, of Cornet Ashburnham, p. 113; Lieut. Duckett, p. 219; Ast. Surgeon Martin, p. 364; Ensign Gunter, p. 487, &c.

2. Stephen, 259; Gould, 142; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 440; State v. Palmer, 35 Maine, 9; Green v. State, 23 Miss. 509.

3. Stephen, 261. And see Gould, 142.

4. Starkie, 34; 1 Chitty, C. L., 255; 1 Archbold, 96; 2 Gabbett, 240; Wharton, C. P. & P. § 301; 1 Bishop, C. P., Ch. XXIX.

5. See Wharton, C. P. & P. § 305, 306; U. S. v. Cole, 5 McLean, 523; Com. v. Manson, 2 Ashm. 31; State v. Tom, 2 Dev. 574.

6. Starkie, 42; Wharton, C. P. & P. § 302. Thus two or more

The joining of several persons in one Charge though not unfrequent during the late war,¹ is not now common in the military practice, but may always be resorted to where a single act of offence has been committed by two or more soldiers or officers in concert and in pursuance of a common intent.² The Charge of "joining in a mutiny"—an offence made punishable by Art. 22 of the code—is that which presents the most frequent examples of joinder at military law. But the mere fact that several persons happen to have committed the same offence at the same time does not authorize their being joined in the Charge.³ Thus where two or more soldiers take occasion to desert, or absent themselves without leave, in company, but not in pursuance of a common unlawful design and concert, the case is not one of a single joint offence, but of several separate offences of the same

cannot be joined in an indictment for perjury. 2 Hawkins, c. 25, s. 89, note 1; *Rex v. Phillips, Strange*, 921. "Or for seditious or blasphemous words, or the like, because such offences are in themselves several." 2 Hale, 174, note 11. "Where the offence indicted doth not wholly arise from the joint act of all the defendants, but from such act joined with some personal and particular defect or omission of each defendant, without which it would be no offence, * * * the indictment must charge them severally and not jointly." 2 Hawkins, c. 25, s. 89. And see 2 Gabbett, 252. In *U. S. v. Kazinski*, 2 Sprague, 7, four parties were jointly indicted for "enlisting and entering" themselves as soldiers in the service of a foreign power, in violation of the neutrality act of 1818. It was held by Sprague J., that this was an offence "in which but one could have participated;" adding—"No one could be guilty of the offence of another person's enlisting himself, which was the offence in these counts charged. Each of these counts charged four persons jointly with an offence which by law is several only, and can under no circumstances be joint. These counts must be stricken out."

1. Among the most conspicuous instances were cases in the following Orders, where the number of the accused as joined in the charges and trials were as follows:—Eighteen in G. C. M. O. 6, Dept. of Ky., 1866; Twenty-one in G. C. M. O. 62, Dept. of Texas, 1873; Twenty-three in G. O. 175, Fifth Mil. Dist., 1869; Thirty-two in G. O. 38, Dept. of the Platte, 1867; Thirty-four in G. C. M. O. 521, War Dept. 1865.

2. DIGEST, 153; Kennedy, 73-4; Hough, (Practice,) 42; Simmons § 402; G. O. 78 of 1872. And see G. O. 10, Dept. of the Platte, 1871, where two soldiers were held properly joined in a Charge for an absence without leave committed together by previous deliberate concert; also Do. 26, Id., 1871, where was approved a Charge in which were joined three soldiers who had conspired to overthrow the guard and escape together from the guard-house, and succeeded.

3. DIGEST, 153.

character, which are no less *several in law* though committed at the same moment.¹

Whether in a case in which there may properly be a joinder, the accused shall be charged and tried jointly or separately, is a question of discretion to be determined, upon considerations of convenience and expediency, and in view of the exigencies of the service, by the commander authorized to order the court. The mere fact that different measures of punishment will properly require to be awarded to the different parties, on conviction, can constitute no objection to their being jointly prosecuted.

Under what circumstances and in what manner accused persons jointly charged may procure themselves to be *severed* on the trial, will be indicated in a subsequent chapter.*

III. RULES OF MILITARY LAW IN REGARD TO THE FRAMING OF THE CHARGE.

As to the Wording of the Charge—*Approved forms*
Every military Charge must be predicated upon a violation of an existing Article of war or other statute of the United States, and the mode in which the "*charge*," (as distinguished from the "*specification*,") shall be framed depends in the first place upon the nature of the enactment. The forms of such charge are indeed of two classes: those laid under Articles, (or other statutes,) designating *specific* offences; those laid under the two *general* Articles, or Articles providing for the punishment of offences under a general designation, *viz.* the 61st and 62nd. The charge, where specific, may consist simply of the name of the offence, as "Desertion," "Mutiny," "Misbehaviour before the enemy;" or, referring to the article under which it is brought, it may be expressed as "Violation of the — Article of War;"² or it may combine the two forms and be phrased as

1. See DIGEST, 153; Simmons § 402; G. O. 78 of 1872; Do. 5, Dept. of the South, 1871; G. C. M. O. 42, Fourth Mil. Dist., 1866. But see also case of joint absence without leave cited in above note.

2. See Chapter XVI—"Motion to sever."

3. This form has occasionally been criticized as improper or unsatisfactory, (see G. O. 11 of 1862; Do. 32, Army of the Potomac, 1862; Do. 2, Dept. of the East, 1863; Do. 121, Dept. of the Mo., 1864; Do. 21, Dept. of the Columbia, 1885; O'Brien, 233,) but it is sanctioned by the usage of the service, and is not open to *legal* objection. DIGEST, 146.

"False Muster, in violation of the 14th Article of War," "Disobedience of Orders in violation of the 21st Article," &c. Where the charge is laid under one of the *general* Articles, it may be worded—"Conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman," or "Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline;" or it may be framed in this form with the addition of the words "in violation of the 61st or 62d Article of War;" or—though this mode is here more open to objection than where a *specific* offence is charged—it may be simply expressed as "Violation of the 61st or 62d Article," as the case may be.

Objectionable forms. The above are the only recognized and regular forms of stating the charge; a charge not following one of such forms, if not fatally defective, must be at least more or less faulty. Thus those loose forms of charge, now much less frequent than formerly, such as "Worthlessness," "Incompetency," "Habitual Drunkenness," "Unreliability," "General Bad Conduct," and the like, inasmuch as they do not designate any specific military offence recognized by the code, while at the same time applying to the accused a depreciatory and unfair description in advance of trial, are highly objectionable, and have been repeatedly disapproved in Orders.* Where indeed the specifications to such charges merely set forth, (as they generally have done,) former instances of arrests or confinements in the guard-house, or former trials and convictions for slight offences, the pleading is wholly insufficient, "such instances not constituting military offences, but merely the punishments or consequences of such offences."² So is the Charge insufficient, where the specification sets forth an habitual course of conduct,

1. G. O. 11 of 1873; Do. 171, D. of the South, 1864; Do. 19, Id., 1867; Do. 9, Dept. of the Gulf, 1866; Do. 16, Dept. of the Tenn., 1867; Do. 85, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1867; Do. 21, Dept. of the Mo., 1863; G. C. M. O. 33, Id., 1874; Do. 35, Dept. of the Platte, 1872.

2. DIGEST, 148. And see G. O. 11 of 1873; Do. 32, Dept. of the Platte, 1870. To try upon such a charge would often indeed involve a violation of the 102d Article, prohibiting a second trial for the same offence. See DIGEST, 149; G. O. 37, Dept. of Florida, 1866; Do. 69, Dept. of the South, 1870. This class of Charges are frequently subject to the objection of being *double*. For example, in G. O. 26, Dept. of the Columbia, 1870, are published two cases, in which a specification to a charge of "Habitual Drunkenness, to the prejudice," &c., alleges that the accused was drunk, in one of the cases on *nine*, and in the other on *eight* specified occasions, "and at various other times."

since the law provides for the trial and punishment not of bad habits but of specific acts of offence.¹ Such Charges indeed, where the specifications allege actual and distinct military disorders or neglects, may be supported, under a principle hereafter to be noticed as Charges under the 62d Article. In such cases, however, they should properly be formally laid under that Article, as "Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline," with a separate specification for each act of misconduct.²

A further, less faulty, but also improper and unmilitary form, is the use of intensives in connection with the title of the charge;—as "*Positive*, or *Deliberate*, disobedience of Orders," "*Gross* neglect of duty," "*Corrupt* or *Fraudulent* conduct, to the prejudice," &c. The expletive in such cases cannot heighten or affect the quality of the offence and is wholly superfluous.³ It is indeed commonly but an expression of the *animus* or estimate of the accuser; but a military charge is no proper medium for the expression of personal feeling or opinion. If the case be an aggravated one, the matter of aggravation, so far as properly descriptive of the alleged offence, may be set forth in the specification,⁴ and so far as material to the question of guilt or of punishment, may be brought out in evidence.

1. G. O. 24, Dept. of Cal., 1865; Do. 43, Dept. of the Ohio, 1863; G. C. M. O. 8, Dept. of Texas, 1873.

A form of pleading may here be noticed as having grown up in our recent practice, which, though not known to the law of indictments, has been adopted in the majority of our military Depts., on account of its *practical convenience*. This is a charge of violation of Art. 62, with a specification which, in setting forth a *specific offence*, (generally one of inferior quality *per se*), precedes it with an enumeration of previous convictions, (or arrests and confinements,) of the accused, for the same offence, or other inferior offences. No injustice is thus done the accused, while the court is put in possession of the true facts of his military record and enabled more intelligently to adjust the proper sentence—which practice has generally included a dishonorable discharge. This form of specification has been employed in numerous cases especially in the Departments of the East, the Platte, and California. An instance will be found approved in G. C. M. O. 24, H. Q. A., 1883.

2. DIGEST, 148. And see the G. O. 11 of 1873, in concurrence with previous opinions of the Judge Advocate General, and now incorporated in § 894 of the Army Regulations; also G. O. 21, Dept. of the Mo., 1863; G. C. M. O. 53, Id., 1874.

3. See the similar case of stigmatizing words added to the charge of "conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman," in G. C. M. O. 80 of 1875.

4. See note *ante*, as to recent form of Charge under Art. 62.

Irregular but allowable forms under Art. 62. Cases have not been unfrequent in practice where the charge fails either to designate a specific military offence, or to state in an approved form an offence under Art. 62, but where charge and specification taken together do make out a statement of a crime, neglect, or disorder to the prejudice of good order and military discipline. In such cases, to prevent a failure or delay of justice, the pleading as a whole is supported as a legally sufficient statement of an offence under the 62d Article. In the same manner, where a specific offence is charged by name, but the specification does not state facts proper or sufficient to constitute such offence, but charge and specification together amount to an allegation of an offence included within the general description of Art. 62, legal effect may be given to the Charge as a whole by the court, which may proceed to try and *find* accordingly. This principle, which forcibly illustrates the liberality with which rules of pleading are applied in military cases, rests now upon established usage in our service.¹ It will be further illustrated in the Chapter on the Finding.

The Heading No Part of the Charge. The heading or caption by which military charges are commonly prefaced, *viz.*:— 'Charges and specifications preferred against A. B.,' adding his rank, office, corps, &c., is no part of the Charge or Charges, and may be omitted altogether. The point is one which would scarcely require to be noticed except for the reason that it has been expressly affirmed by Atty. Gen. Gilpin in a specific case, where an erroneous rank attributed to the accused in the heading was (of course) held not to have affected the validity of the Charge.²

In this case, it may be added, the *specification* referred to the accused as "the said" A. B. This was irregular: no reference should be made to the heading, but the designation in the specification should be entire and complete within itself and contain a full description of the accused independently of the heading, even if it but repeats its wording. The heading is even less a part of a Charge than is the "caption" of an indictment.³

1. See DIGEST, 146-7.

2. III Opins. 548.

3. The caption of an indictment is no part of the indictment itself. ² Gabbett, 278; Wharton, C. P. & P. § 91. It is "merely a preamble to the record." *State v. Smith*, 2 Harr. 532.

The Charge to be Laid under the Proper Article.

offence made specifically punishable by a certain Article must of course be formally charged thereunder: to charge it instead as a violation of an Article relating to a different specific offence or of the general—62d—Article, will be a serious defect, for which the Charge will properly be struck out on motion of the accused. The effect of a failure to observe this rule is specially illustrated in a case where the Article under which the Charge should have been laid, and that under which it has actually been laid, prescribe different *sentences*, as where the former requires a particular punishment to be imposed on conviction, and the latter leaves the punishment to the discretion of the court; or *vice versa*. But though no such distinction may exist—the two Articles prescribing or permitting the same punishment, or both making the punishment discretionary—the error of the pleading is the same in law.

Application of the rule illustrated. There can be no general but little difficulty in determining under which Article a specific military offence is to be charged, since it will rarely happen that such an offence will be found to be included within the descriptions of two different articles. One instance of such inclusion is that of the offence of stealing property of the United States, which, in time of *war*, may be charged under Art. 58 as well as under Art. 60; otherwise in time of *peace* when it must properly, be charged only under the latter article. Another instance is that of the offence of selling or disposing of public property, which is made punishable, generally, by the 60th, and in certain particular instances, by the 16th and 17th, of the Articles. But the difficulty here is but slight, for where the offence clearly falls within one of these instances, it will properly be charged under the particular article; otherwise under Art. 60. Further, where an officer has committed a specific military offence so dishonorable in its circumstances as also to constitute "a duel unbecoming an officer and a gentleman," he is amenable to trial for the same act under two articles: but here again there

1. PHOENIX, 140. And see the charging of specific offences under Art. 60 condemned in *G. O. 5*, Northern Dept., 1865; Do. 25, Dept. of Platte, 1871; *G. O. M. O. 32*, Dept. of the Mo., 1871.

2. See *G. O. 18* of 1860; Do. 28 of 1863; Do. 54, Dept. of Tenn., 1860.

no difficulty, since the offence may be charged under both—the specific article and the 61st.

The principal difficulty in observing the present rule will arise in a case where it is *doubtful* whether the offence is one of a class contemplated by a certain specific article, and therefore properly chargeable under it, or is not within the terms of such article and chargeable only under Art. 62. Thus there may sometimes be a reasonable question whether the making of a false return should be charged under Art. 8 or Art. 62; or a disobedience of an order under Art. 21 or Art. 62; or a mutinous act under Art. 22 or Art. 62; or a case of drunkenness under Art. 38 or Art. 62; or a breach of arrest under Art. 65 or Art. 62. But study and deliberation will commonly solve such questions; and where serious doubt still remains, the difficulty may be in part avoided by charging the act both as a violation of the specific article and as "conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline." Where indeed the offence is *clearly* one cognizable under an Article relating to a distinct offence, to charge it also under the general—62d—Article will be superfluous. Where this is done, however, the court may properly entertain both charges for the purposes of the trial, unless indeed the specific article makes the offence a *capital* one. In that case, as a capital offence cannot be charged under Art. 62, the court will properly grant a motion to strike out the charge laid under this article, as it being within its jurisdiction.¹

The Specification should be Appropriate to and Support the Charge. To complete a valid Charge, not only should the *charge* designate the real offence committed, but the *specification* should set forth the legal constituents of such offence, as defined by the statute or by the usage and precedents of the service. It should, by its statement, cover every item of such definition, so as not only to be appropriate to the distinctive charge but inappropriate to any other—except, perhaps, (in a case of an *inter alia* charge,) a charge under Art. 61.

¹ Such was the action taken in the case of Lieut. Rogers, where a charge for Disobedience of Orders under the 9th (now 21st) Article, clearly properly so laid, was added a Charge for the same act laid under the 99th (now 62d) Article. The latter, being objected to by the prisoner, was stricken out by the court, and the proceedings were approved by the Secretary of War. G. O. 13 of 1848.

Should state facts. Further the specification, to support the charge, should properly set forth *facts*—acts of commission or omission—and not mere inferences or conclusions of law. These, as we have already seen, have no proper place either in an Indictment or a Charge. In a military case, therefore, it is in general defective pleading to allege in the specification merely that the accused did commit the offence indicated in the charge,—as that he did behave himself with disrespect toward his commanding officer, did disobey the order of a superior officer or did offer violence against such officer, did join in a mutiny, did misbehave before the enemy, did commit waste or spoil of private property, &c.;—the *proper* form being to set forth the specific facts and circumstances relied upon as constituting the particular offence charged.¹ In view, however, of the simplicity and directness of the provisions of the military code, a strict observance of this rule is not called for in some instances. Thus it is generally sufficient to allege in a specification to a charge under Art. 47 that the accused *did desert*; and so under Art. 38, that he *was found drunk*, &c.; without specifying in what the desertion or drunkenness consisted or by what acts it was indicated. But, except in such familiar cases, to describe the offence in the specification merely in the words by which it is designated in the charge, or in the Article, is bad pleading; and, where the description is thus bald, the court, upon the motion of the accused, may properly require the specification to be made more definite or be stricken out.

Should describe the complete offence. Lastly, the specification, in its statement of facts, should set forth such facts as will be sufficient, if proved, to sustain, not only the specific charge in contradistinction to any other, but also such charge in its entirety. A specification stating facts which will establish only a portion of the offence charged, or a secondary or incidental offence, will be as insufficient in law as if it stated facts representing an offence of a totally different nature.² A familiar instance of a specification not sustaining in its entirety the charge would be one in which, the charge being desertion, the specifi-

1. DIGEST, 146-7; G. O. 37, Army of the Potomac, 1861.

2. DIGEST, 147. And compare instance, (in a naval case,) of a specification held not to have supported the charge, in IX Opins. At Gen., 223.

tion alleged an absence without leave only; or one where under a charge of "robbery" the specification described a larceny only, the averment as to the use of force, &c., being omitted.

Each of several specifications to be complete and independent. It should be noticed that where there are several specifications, the present rule is to be applied to the framing of each specification precisely as if it were the only specification in the case. While one good specification will sustain the charge, any number of defective specifications will fail to do so. Each specification, therefore, should be entire and sufficient *per se*. Independently of every other specification, and without borrowing from, or referring to, any other, each separate specification should contain all the allegations, substantial and formal, which are necessary and proper both to complete itself and to support the charge as laid.¹

IV. THE PREFERRING OF CHARGES.

Preliminary Investigation — Charges to be well-founded. Only such charges as, upon sufficient investigation, are ascertained to be supported by the facts—are found to be sustained by at least *prima facie* evidence—should be preferred for trial. The preferring of charges, without a proper investigation of the facts in the first instance—a neglect of duty which may entail, besides a needless waste of time spent in the trial, the arrest and confinement of an innocent person—has been repeatedly severely reflected upon in General Orders.² In the British military law, such investigation is enjoined by express statute.³

1. See G. O. 12, 33, Dept. of the Mo., 1862; Do. 15, Id., 1863. In the first of these Orders, the fact that the pleader had inserted a general statement of time and place at the end of all the specifications, as applicable to all alike, instead of a separate statement at the end of each, was condemned by the reviewing authority as a marked irregularity.

2. See G. C. M. O. 70, 1875; G. O. 57, Dept. of the Tenn., 1864; Do. 50, 53, Dept. of the East, 1865; Do. 41, Id., 1868; Do. 10, 13, , Dept. of the Lakes, 1867; Do. 33, 38, Dept. of the Platte, 1868; Do. 33, Dept. of La., 1868; Do. 24, Fifth Mil. Dist., 1868; Do. 15, 153, , 1869; Do. 26, Dept. of the Mo., 1870; Do. 3, Id., 1872; Circ., Id., No. 15, 1871; G. O. 7, Dept. of the Gulf, 1872; Do. 11, Dept. of the Columbia, 1872; Do. 29, 71, Dept. of Dakota, 1873.

3. "The charge made against every person taken into military custody shall, without unnecessary delay, be investigated by the proper

Charges not to be Frivolous or Malicious. All charges should be substantial and made in good faith. Where, as the result of imperfect investigation or otherwise, frivolous charges are preferred, or where the charges are actuated by a hostile *animus* and are not in themselves well-founded, they are not a proper basis for a trial by court-martial. When such charges have been tried, they have not unfrequently exposed those preferring them to grave censure and in some cases to severe punishment.¹

To be Preferred against the Responsible Party. The charge in every case should be preferred only against the person responsible for the act. Where there is any doubt as to which of several persons is the one properly chargeable with the offence committed, they should not all be charged, if by a more complete investigation the guilty party can be distinguished.² Further, where superiors and inferiors have offended together, or superiors

military authority, and, as soon as may be, either proceedings shall be taken for punishing the offence, or such persons shall be discharged from custody." Army Act § 45, (5.)

1. See a recent case in G. C. M. O. 71 of 1879. In sundry cases reported by James, (see pp. 81-4, 241, 266, 340, 372, 538-9, 583, 604-3, 792,) the preferring of frivolous or baseless charges is severely animadverted upon by the reviewing authority, and in several instances the officers who preferred the same are summarily dismissed the service. In G. O. 86, Dept. of the Mo., 1867, Gen. Hancock observes:—"To prefer accusations which cannot be maintained is highly injurious to the service and reflects discredit upon those who prefer them; and if upon trial the charges are found to be groundless, the officer preferring them should be held accountable and be tried himself for preferring malicious charges." Frivolous charges relating to *personal* matters are condemned by Gen. Crook, in G. O. 2, Dept. the Columbia, 1870, as follows:—"It is to be regretted that the Department Commander should be called upon to convene a court-martial to settle differences of opinion and peccadilloes between officers, which, it seems to him, should be settled among themselves, and not only without trouble, but without their being published to the world." And see remarks of the same Commander, in G. C. M. O. 3, Dept. of Arizona, 1884, as to the impropriety of making personal difficulties between officers the subject of charges.

So charges should not in general be preferred after the offence has been once passed over, and the accused has been released from arrest and restored to duty, and his misconduct has not been renewed. Surgeon Jolliffe's Case, James, 516, Bombay R., 3.

2. In certain cases, published in G. C. M. O. 120, Dept. of the East, 1870, where three soldiers were separately charged, tried, and sentenced, for the same act as committed by each, the proceedings were all disapproved because it did not appear from the evidence which, or who, was the actual offender and responsible party.

have sanctioned offences of subordinates,—whatever proceedings it may be thought proper to take against the latter, charges should certainly be preferred against the former, as primarily responsible and deserving punishment.¹ So, where duties have been improperly performed by soldiers, by reason of their having been assigned to the same when drunk or otherwise unfitted to perform them, by superiors cognizant of their condition, it is the latter who, as primarily responsible for the consequences, should become subject to charges rather than the former.²

All Existing Grounds of Accusation to be Presented Together—Accumulation of Charges. While charges should be prepared and preferred with as little delay, after they have been investigated and determined to be well-founded, as may be reasonably practicable, care should be taken that *all* the charges and specifications to which the party may be subject be preferred together. Unlike the ordinary criminal procedure, where but one indictment, setting forth (in one or more counts) a single offence or connected criminal transaction,³ is in general brought to trial at one time, the military usage and procedure permit of an indefinite number of offences being charged and adjudicated together in one and the same proceeding.⁴ And, with a view to the summary and final action so important in military cases,—wherever an officer or soldier has been apparently guilty of several or many offences, whether of a similar character or distinct in their nature, charges and specifications covering them all, should, if practicable, be preferred together and together brought to trial; separate *sets* of charges, where they exist, being consolidated.⁵ Where all the charges to which a party is amenable are known or can readily be ascertained, and the testimony to establish them is available, to bring one or a portion to trial separately, and the other or remainder to a further trial later, is an irregular proceeding.⁶

1. See DIGEST, 247 § 3.

2. See G. O. 2, Dept. of the Platte, 1873; G. C. M. O. 46, Dept. of Texas, 1880.

3. See Sec. 1024, Rev. Sts.

4. Specifications setting forth distinct acts of offence were especially numerous in cases during the late war; amounting in one instance, published in G. O. 43, War Dept., 1863, to *sixty-one* in number.

5. See DIGEST, 148.

6. Such a proceeding is condemned in G. C. M. O. 37, Dept. of the Platte, 1872.

What is known as the "*accumulation*" of Charges,—which is the allowing of slight offences to pass apparently unnoticed, until a sufficient number have been committed to make up together, when stated in separate specifications, a show of grave misconduct in the aggregate,—has been universally condemned, and the preferring of charges thus reserved has been commonly attributed to a hostile *animus*, to the serious disadvantage of the prosecution upon the trial.¹ Where indeed the dereliction of the party consists in the *habitual* nature of his misconduct—as that he is habitually addicted to becoming drunk—it may be proper to delay preferring the charge till instances sufficient to indicate the fact of habit have transpired; but such delay should not be unreasonably prolonged.²

By whom Charges are to be Preferred.³ Preferring charges, in a general sense, consists in being the author of, or person responsible for, specific accusations presented against an officer or soldier. The "accuser," referred to in Art. 72, is, in this sense, the preferrer of the charges; and so is the "prosecutor" where he has either originated or adopted the accusation. In *law*, however, and as the term is employed in the present connection, the preferring of charges consists in the formal subscription and authentication of such charges for official purposes. A military charge, by whomever *initiated*, must—to serve as

1. "Delaying to bring forward charges" and "permitting them to lie dormant justifies the impression that the prosecutor is not actuated by public motives alone in their institution." Simmons § 382. "It is highly improper to hold charges in reserve against an officer or soldier in order that they may accumulate so as to form collectively a crime of sufficient magnitude to justify a prosecution." Macomb, 26. And see Tytler, 162, 163; De Hart, 99; Harwood, 46; Ives, 88; 1 Opins. At Gen., 295; G. C. M. O. 71 of 1879; G. O. 12, Dept. of the Mo., 1868; Do. 53, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1863; Do. 41, Dept. of Washington, 1868; Do. 10, Dept. of the Platte, 1871; Do. 30, Dept. of the South, 1873; G. C. M. O. 2, Dept. of Texas, 1882; Do. 45, Div. Pacific & Dept. Cal., 1882; DIGEST, 147. In two cases reported by James, (pp. 203, 461.) the accuser, an inferior in rank, who had accumulated charges against his superior, the accused, was dismissed the service, in the Order publishing the proceedings. The rule of course does not apply where the offences, though long since committed, have recently all come at the same time to the knowledge of the officer preferring the charges. G. O. 33, Dept. of Arizona, 1871.

2. See DIGEST, 147. In such case each *instance* should of course form the subject of a separate specification.

3. Compare, under this head, DIGEST, 154.

proper basis for official action and trial—be *formally* preferred by a commissioned officer of the army. Such a charge may *originate* either with the formal preferrer himself, or with any other individual whether or not in the military or public service. A civilian, if first advised or personally cognizant of a serious offence committed by an officer or soldier, may, as properly as any military person, bring the same to the knowledge of the military authorities, and indeed is but performing a public duty in so doing.¹ So, a charge may be advanced in the first instance by an enlisted man. But although a civilian or a soldier may present the charge in writing and duly framed, the *formal* preferment of the same—the legal act—must be by and under the signature of an *officer*.²

Any officer, of whatever rank, and whether or not exercising command, may legally prefer a charge, and at any time. There is no military status which involves a legal disqualification to prefer a charge: an officer, though himself under charges, in arrest, or under sentence, may not only originate but formally prefer charges with the same *legal* effect as any other officer. But while any officer may legally thus act, the preferring of charges by certain officers is not favored. Thus charges by a junior against a senior in rank, unless ordered to be preferred, or sanctioned, by a common superior, are not encouraged in practice.³ In general charges will most appropriately be preferred either by the commanding officer of the accused, by a superior in rank, or by the judge advocate of the court,—the latter acting officially and by the direction express or implied of the con-

1. That the validity of a charge is not affected by the fact that it *originated* with a civilian, see G. O. 33, Dept. of Arizona, 1871; also Gen. Swaim's Case, G. C. M. O. 19 of 1885.

2. The peculiar practice of the preferring of charges against naval officers by the Secretary of the Navy has no counterpart in the military service. As to the objections to this practice, and its sanction by usage, see Trials of Com. Wilkes, pp. 2-3, and of Com. T. A. C. Jones, p. 367.

3. Such charges have been especially discouraged in the British service, where, in repeated cases, juniors who have preferred *and prosecuted* charges against their seniors have been severely rebuked, and not rarely, if commissioned officers, dismissed, or, if non-commissioned officers, reduced to the ranks. See James, pp. 35, 167, 203-4, 210, 266, 331, 372, 463, 539-40, 543, 583, 600-1, 648, 727, 759. In the review of one of these cases—Col. Quentin's—it is remarked by the Commander-in-chief: "A regard due to the subordination of the service must ever attach a severe responsibility to subordinate officers who become the accusers of their superiors."

vening authority. In any case an officer may be ordered by his proper commander, (or by the President, through the Secretary of War or a military representative,) to prefer charges against another officer or an enlisted man.¹

Form of Preferment. A charge is officially authenticated and preferred by the formal subscription of the same by the preferring officer with his name, rank, regiment, corps, or office. It is not *essential*, to give a court-martial *jurisdiction* of the offence or the offender, that the charges should be thus authenticated, or signed at all. Such court, however, would properly defer proceeding to trial, as would also the accused properly object to be arraigned and to plead, where the charges had been omitted to be subscribed in the usual manner.

To Whom to be Preferred. Charges are to be preferred to the commander authorized to order, or who would, under the circumstances, most appropriately order, the court. Such commander, (where trial by a general court-martial is proposed,) will be the Division, Department, or Army commander, (or in time of war a commander empowered by Art. 73,) the Superintendent of the Military Academy, or the President. By *preferring* is meant officially addressing and forwarding to the commander through the proper military channels, (or directly where permissible,) the formal charges; the same being usually accompanied with a request or recommendation, expressed in the letter transmittal, that such charges, if approved, be referred to court-martial for trial. In the rare cases in which a commander authorized to order a general court-martial himself prefers direct the charges, he will properly prefer them to the court through the judge advocate; unless he be the "accuser or prosecutor" of the accused in the sense of Arts. 72 and 73, when he will prefer them to the President or the "next higher commander," as the case may be.

V. THE REFERRING OF CHARGES FOR TRIAL.

By Whom and How Referred. Regularly and properly charges can be referred to a general court-martial for trial or

1. This point was in substance held by Maj. Gen. Brown, as G. Comdg. the Army, in G. O. 3 of 1826.

2. Signing charges as "by order" of a superior is not approved customary in our practice, though the signing may have been ordered in fact. Otherwise in the British service. Simmons § 494.

by the commander by whom the court has been convened, (or his successor in command,) or by his authority. The referring of charges to the court by the "highest authority on the spot"—as the post commander—has been sanctioned in some Orders, with special view to the trial of enlisted men.¹ But unless expressly authorized by the department, &c., commander,—as it sometimes has been where the court was assembled at a post or station remote from his headquarters,—such a reference by an inferior commander is irregular and improper.²

The reference, by the department, &c., commander, of the charges to the court is not made till the same have been *approved* by him, and such approval is not given till the charges have been examined by the commander, or by the judge advocate or other proper staff officer attached to the command, and if necessary revised and corrected.

Upon the approval, the charges are, regularly, transmitted from the headquarters to the judge advocate or president of the court—usually and preferably to the former—for prosecution and trial.

VI. AMENDMENT OF CHARGES AFTER REFERENCE FOR TRIAL.

Charges duly referred for trial are, in law, ordered to be tried as they stand. Thereafter to assume to amend them without proper authority is a military offence. As will appear in Chapter XVI, the court may strike out a charge or specification on motion of the accused if sufficient cause be exhibited; but, itself-moved and of its own original capacity, it has no power whatever to amend, modify, discard or withdraw any part of the

1. In an Order of Gen. Scott, (G. O. 57, Hdqrs. of Army, May 20, 1857,) referred to and followed in a few subsequent Dept. G. O., the reference by the post commander is held authorized except where he is himself a member of the court. This however is not a correct statement of the law as now held and observed.

2. DIGEST, 154; G. O. 67, Dept. of Ark., 1864; Do. 47, Dept. of East, 1868; Do. 88, Dept. of Dakota, 1869; Do. 2, Dept. of the West, 1873; Do. 8, Dept. of Texas, 1874. The irregularity would be *gravated* where the post commander was himself a member of the court. See G. O. 68, Dept. of Dakota, 1875, where he was the president of the court, and it was held that his action had rendered him liable to challenge.

charges or specifications officially committed to it for trial.¹ How far the judge advocate may be empowered to amend, &c., will be considered in Chapter XIII. It need only be said here that he can have no authority for this purpose *virtute officii*, but must be thereto authorized—if authorized at all—by the superior by whom he has been detailed.

It may be added that where a command is furnished with a competent officer of the Judge Advocate General's Department, or staff officer acting as such, all charges will have been fully revised before being referred for trial. There will thus rarely be occasion for any considerable amendments at a later stage.

VII. ADDITIONAL CHARGES.

This is a technical term in military law, meaning new Charges which are advanced *after* the preferment and service of the particular Charge or set of Charges for the trial of which the court has been ordered, or upon which the accused was originally intended to be arraigned.² Such Charges may relate to past transactions which were not known by or brought to the attention of the officer framing or ordering the original Charges, at the time these were preferred; or they may, as is more frequent, arise from acts of the accused subsequent to his arrest on the original Charges. Thus if, after such arrest, he commits a "breach of arrest," an "additional" charge will properly be added in the case, and served upon him. Charges of this class do not require a separate trial, but may and properly should be tried by the same court which tries the original Charges, and at the same time. They must, however, be brought before the court prior to its being sworn. After the court has been duly sworn to try and determine "the matter now before it," further or "additional" Charges (or specifications) cannot legally be entertained by it at that trial, but must await a separate investigation.³

1. Or, where it has been ordered to try a duly amended form of charge, to substitute for it the original form, as, in its opinion, preferable. G. C. M. O. 210, Dept. of the East, 1884.

2. In a few early cases, "supplementary" charges, so called, were added *after* "additional" charges. See instance in G. O. 72 of 18

3. See the law on this point as stated in DIGEST, 68, 148; also *S. Mons* § 415; Kennedy, 81-2; De Hart, 102; G. C. M. O. 39 of 18, G. O. 13, Northern Dept., 1864.

VIII. THE SERVICE OF CHARGES.

Form and Manner of Service. The service of Charges consists in delivering personally to the accused a true copy of the charges and specifications upon which it is proposed to bring him to trial. There is properly in military law no other service of charges than a personal service, since the United States is supposed to have the accused always in custody or within its control.¹ The service is usually made by the judge advocate of the court, the adjutant of the command,² or other officer or non-commissioned officer detailed for the purpose.³ In a case of an accused soldier who is illiterate or imperfectly acquainted with the English language, the charges and specifications should be read and their contents explained to him by the officer making the service.⁴

In making service it is desirable, in a case of importance, that the officer, &c., should note on the original draft the fact, date and place of the delivery of the copy. It is also proper that he should compare with the accused the original and copy furnished, so that both parties may be assured that a true copy has been served.

List of witnesses. Though the accused has no right to demand it,⁵ it is yet proper and desirable that there should be appended to the Charges as served upon him a list of the witnesses by whom it is proposed to support them. The accused will thus be the better advised of the source and basis of the complaint, and so better enabled to prepare his defence and to determine what witnesses he will require to rebut or impeach those of the government. The list, however, is no part of the charge and is frequently omitted. Though added and served herewith, it will not oblige the prosecution to introduce the wit-

1. It may be noted that the entering of a written charge against the prisoner by the officer making the arrest, in the manner indicated in Art. 7, cannot in general answer as a personal service of the formal charges and specifications.

2. Simmons § 416.

3. The service may be made by a private soldier or even by a civilian, if this is not usual.

4. Simmons § 416. And see Rules of Procedure § 14 (B.)

5. Hough, 705; Simmons § 423; G. O. 52, Dept. of the Platte, 1865.

CHAPTER XI.

THE FORMAL ORDERING, MEETING, &c., OF THE COURT.

The subject of this Chapter will be considered under the following heads:—I. The Convening Order, and Orders Supplemental thereto; II. The Meeting and Opening of the Court; III. Preliminary Business; IV. Introduction of Accused; V. Admission and Status of Counsel; VI. The Clerk and other Assistants or Attendants.

I. THE CONVENING ORDER, &c.

Its Effect in General. As already shown, a general court-martial is constituted by a military order, issued either by the commander-in-chief or one of the military commanders specifically authorized for the purpose by statute. An outline of the Order, as generally framed, is given in par. 881, Army Regulations. In its usual form this Order is a direction to certain officers named to assemble at a certain time and place and form court for the trial of a person or persons specifically or in general terms indicated, and to a further officer to act as judge and advocate of such court. A copy of the Order, written or printed, properly, and in practice, delivered or transmitted to each of the officers designated. Its particulars illustrate in brief the law heretofore stated at length in regard to the constitution and composition of general courts.

Particulars—1. The Caption. This, where the court is convened by a military officer, should indicate the headquarters of the command of the officer who makes the order. As—"Headquarters of the Army;" "Headquarters, Army of the Potomac;" "Headquarters, Department of California;" "Headquarters, 1st Division, First Army Corps," &c.,—with the *place* at which headquarters are situated, and the *date*. If issued by the

Commander-in-chief, the Order may be headed—"War Department," or "Headquarters of the Army, Washington, D. C.," according as it is issued through the one or the other. If the order proceeds from the Superintendent of the Military Academy, the heading will be "U. S. Military Academy, West Point, N. Y." The caption should not only identify the command, but indicate that it is one of which the commander is authorized to convene a general court-martial: otherwise it is invalid upon its face.¹ That the Order is dated on a Sunday affects in no manner its validity.²

2. Place and Time of Meeting. The Order then proceeds to announce and direct that a General Court-Martial will assemble, or convene, or is appointed to meet, at a certain place, naming a particular post, station, &c.,³ on a certain specified day, 'or,' as it is usually added, 'as soon thereafter as practicable.' The time or place, or both, may be changed by a subsequent Order from the same source.⁴ It would not be proper for the court, of its own authority, to depart from either; though if it did so the validity of the proceedings would not necessarily be affected: a general approval of the same by the commander would sanction the irregular action.⁵

3. The Name of the Party or Parties to be Tried. The Order then subjoins: 'for the trial of'—naming a certain officer or enlisted man—"and such other persons (or prisoners) as may be brought before it;" or, more generally, since it is not necessary to designate any particular person or persons,⁶—"for the trial of such persons as may be brought before it." Where a particular person is named, it is usually an officer, &c., who

1. See DIGEST, 57-8, 353.

2. DIGEST, 353.

3. In G. Field O. 4, Dept. of Dakota, 1867, the court is ordered to meet on a transport steamer. In G. O. 76 of 1869, it was directed that "Military courts will be assembled at posts or stations where the aggregate expenses of trial or examination will be least."

4. See De Hart, 88.

5. In G. O. 172 and 185, Dept. of the Ohio, 1863, the proceedings were disapproved because the court, in one instance, met and acted *place*, and, in another, on a *date*, other than as indicated and directed in the convening Order.

6. See G. O. 52, Div. Pacific, 1865.

trial was the original or special occasion for convening the court. The party named, if any, should of course appear to be a person within the military jurisdiction. If the Order specifies that the court is convened for the trial of a certain class of military persons only, its effect is to preclude the trial of persons not within that class. Thus a court would not be authorized to try an enlisted man under an Order directing it to assemble for the trial of "officers."¹

4. The Detail of the Members. The Order then proceeds to name the officers who are to compose the court, observing the principles of law heretofore laid down in regard to the class, rank, number, &c. The number must of course be at least five and not more than thirteen. The detail are arranged in order of rank, but the senior and first in the list need not be, and is not in our practice, designated as "President." The precedence given to certain officers as senior to others in the Order is conclusive on the court till changed, as it may be, by a supplemental Order; but an error in the statement of the rank, or relative position of any member, or of his regiment, corps or office, will not affect the validity of the Order.

The detail in the original (or a supplemental) Order is the authority for the members named to appear, be sworn and act on the court,² and consequently to absent themselves (if necessary) from their posts or stations, and to receive transportation or mileage if the same be otherwise allowable and duly certified.³

5. The Designation of the Judge Advocate. This usually follows the detail of the members, but the Order is not defective if it fail to name an officer as judge advocate: one may be appointed by a supplemental Order. Sometimes indeed the original Order expressly states that a judge advocate will be designated in a subsequent Order.

6. Clause Accounting for the Number, &c., of Members. Where the detail is less than thirteen it is customary to

1. DIGEST, 353-4; G. O. 106, Army of the Potomac, 1862.

2. An officer may be detailed upon a court-martial by telegraph. A telegram, however, to an officer to the effect that he will be, or is to be, aided by a formal order, will not *per se* authorize his acting as a member. See G. C. M. O. 42, Dept. of the Mo., 1874.

3. As to the certificate, see *post*.

add in the Order, following the language of the 75th Article to the effect that—"No greater number can be detailed without manifest injury to the service." The early rulings of the U. S. Supreme Court and the Supreme Court of New York in which this Article was construed, have been heretofore reported,¹ and it has been seen that such clause is quite unnecessary for the determination of the Commander that thirteen can be detailed without manifest injury, &c., being sufficiently significant by the mere fact of his detailing a less number.²

The wording of the clause sometimes is—"No *other* men or officers,' &c.; this form being employed for the double purpose of declaring, not only that no other, *i. e.* greater, *men* can be detailed without manifest injury, &c., but also that no officers of other, *i. e.* higher, *rank* can be selected; the object of the clause in its latter purport being to account for the possibility of the detail of an officer or officers *junior* to the rank which Art. 79 prescribes shall not be done "where it can be avoided." But it is as unnecessary to account in terms in the Order for making the case an exception to the rule of Art. 79; it is to explain in terms the not detailing of the maximum number. This form of the clause in question is therefore as superfluous as that first mentioned.³

The direction formerly added here, to the effect that, should some of the members fail to arrive, the court might proceed with its business provided the number present was not less than five, is now quite disused; the rule of law empowering five to constitute a court under all circumstances being now perfectly well understood.

7. Direction as to Hours of Session. Where, in the opinion of the convening authority, the exigencies of the service, or other circumstances, require that an exception be made to the general rule prescribed in Art. 94,⁴ it is added in the Order that—"The court will sit without regard to hours." This direction is not unfrequently given in a supplemental Order.

1. See Chapter VII.

2. See DIGEST, 59, 60.

3. DIGEST, 61.

4. See this Article as separately considered in Chapter XXV.

8. The Certificate as to Travel. The Act of June 30, 1882, c. 254, in appropriating, among other things, for the mileage of officers travelling "on duty under orders," added—"the necessity for such travel to be certified by the officer issuing such order." In cases, therefore, where the convening Order details officers stationed at posts, &c., other than the post or station at which the court is to be held, the following certificate is now required to be subjoined:—"The travel involved in the execution of this Order is necessary for the public service."¹

9. Subscription of the Order. The original order, (which may be written or printed,) should appear subscribed, in writing or in print, by the President or Secretary of War,² or by the military Commander, with his rank and a reference to his command as indicated in the caption. The subscription should be consistent with the caption. Copies of the Order are commonly further authenticated by the signature of the Adjutant General, Assistant Adjutant General or other staff officer.

Supplemental Orders. Prior to the organization of the court the Convening Order may be amended, modified, or supplemented by any number of subsequent Orders from the same source,—by which a member or the judge advocate may be relieved, new members added or substituted, the place or time of meeting changed, the hours of session extended, &c. In the record of trial these Orders will properly follow the original Order, so that they may readily be compared therewith, and the authority of the court and of each member, and of the judge advocate, to act as they are shown to act in the proceedings, may clearly appear. Supplemental Orders may also be issued at any stage pending the trial: they are comparatively rare, however, after the arraignment.

II. THE MEETING AND OPENING OF THE COURT.

Arrival, Coming to Order, and Seating of Members. Pursuant to the Convening Order, (and the supplemental Orders, if any,) the officers named in the detail for the court assemble in

1. See G. O. 86, 131, of 1882.

2. The subscription by the Secretary is presumably of course by the authority of the President and his act in law. See G. O. 35 of 1850; *Iso* Chapter III—ORDERS.

full uniform¹ at the time and place named, in such building or room as may have been set apart for the purpose by the post, &c., commander, or provided by the quartermaster's department. When five or more have arrived, they may proceed to business: till five appear those present usually adjourn from day to day to await the attendance of at least the minimum number.²

A quorum of members being assembled, they are called to order by the senior as presiding officer, and, as the roll is called by the judge advocate, take their seats according to their relative rank alternately at the right and left of the president, in the manner of all judicial bodies. The judge advocate is commonly seated at the table opposite the president, and seats are provided at his right and left for the accused and his counsel, and for the witnesses; the former being also generally furnished with a separate table.

Opening to the Public. It is, in the majority of cases, at this stage that the court is pronounced by the president to be open, or is considered to be open, to the public, the accused being at the same time introduced. Where indeed there is preliminary business to be deliberated upon, of the kind—presently to be considered—which does not require the presence of the accused, the public is also properly excluded till this is transacted; in the discretion of the court indeed the opening may be deferred till the time has arrived for the arraignment. In general, however, the opening of the court either concurs with its original assembling or follows closely upon it. It may properly, therefore, be noticed at this point.

Once opened, the court-room, though at any stage of the trial it may be permanently closed at the discretion of the court, is, in general, continued open throughout the investigation, (except when the doors are closed for deliberation on interlocutory matters,) and also during the closing arguments of the counsel, or till the final clearing for judgment.³ While thus open the public is allowed to come and go much as in the civil courts. Noisy

1. As to the wearing of uniform, see remarks in G. O. 29, Dept. of the South, 1872; Do. 43, Dept. of Dakota, 1874.

2. That a less number than a quorum is authorized to adjourn, see Digest, 50.

3. "At other times," (*i. e.* other than occasions of clearing for deliberation,) "except to those persons who have been summoned as witnesses, a court martial is open to the public, military or otherwise, subject to the capacity of the room or tent in which it is held, and the

and improper persons may of course be required to withdraw and if necessary be forcibly excluded. So, if it is determined by the court, as it may be, that its proceedings shall not be reported except officially, newspaper and other reporters may be required not to take notes under penalty of exclusion if they attempt it.¹ In general, however, such reporters are freely admitted, and sometimes even special accommodation is provided for them. Where there is difficulty in clearing the court, excluding particular persons, or keeping order, the proper commander at the post, station, &c., may be called upon by the court to furnish, and will properly furnish, a sufficient force for the purpose. In the cases also of this nature which are within the provision of Art. 86, yet to be considered, the court may itself punish as for a contempt.

III. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS.

Five members having assembled, a *court* is constituted—not a court empowered to proceed to trial, because the members have

convenience of the court and parties before it.” Simmons § 454. And see Clode, 135-6; De Hart, 94; DIGEST, 205. That courts-martial were originally, (under the Carlovingian kings,) held in the *open air*, see Von Molitor; and compare Code of Gustavus Adolphus, Art. 159, where criminal cases before such courts were required to be tried “*under the blue skies*.”

¹ See Clode, 139; Hough, (P.) 778; De Hart, 109. In some cases the court has made a special order on the subject early in the proceedings. See Gen. Whitelocke's Trial, p. 7; Lt. Col. Johnston's do., p. 7; Col. Quentin's do., p. 349; Capt. D. Porter's do., p. 377; Capt. Luttrell's do., p. 5. In the first-named case the reason was assigned that otherwise subsequent witnesses would be advised as to what previous witnesses had testified. On Gen. F. J. Porter's Trial, p. 31, the judge advocate having called the attention of the court to the fact that the testimony as published in the newspapers contained gross errors, the court cautioned the reporters present against a continuance of the same. In *U. S. v. Holmes*, 1 Wallace, Jr., 10-11, it was announced on the trial by Mr. Justice Baldwin:—“We have the power to regulate the admission of persons and the character of proceedings within our own bar. * * * No person will be allowed to come within the bar of the court for the purpose of reporting, except on condition of suspending all publications till after the trial is concluded.” But at *military* law, a publication, after an order by a court-martial prohibiting it, would not be punishable as a contempt. See Chapter XVII.

The right to prohibit publications does not authorize the seizure by the court of notes taken in violation of its order. In the case of *Ricketts v. Walker*, Calcutta, 1841, (Hough, P., 718; Manual, 162, note,) a reporter recovered nominal damages against the president of a court-martial for causing the forcible seizure of his notes which he had continued to take after being ordered to desist.

not as yet qualified for this purpose by taking the oath prescribed by Art. 84, but a court competent to proceed with the *preliminary* business. This business is of two kinds,—(1.) that which may be transacted before the accused appears or in his absence,—(2.) that which can be transacted only in the presence of the accused.

Before the Introduction, or in the Absence, of the Accused—*Settlement of questions of precedence.* In the great majority of cases, no business whatever is found to be required to be transacted by general courts-martial at this stage, the occasions for such business being removed by the previous proper revision of the charges, framing of the convening order, &c., at headquarters. From time to time, however, an error in such order, caused by a misconception of the relative rank of members, will give rise to a question of precedence on the court. The order itself can of course be amended only by the convening authority; but a slight error of the kind indicated, such for example as may occur from mistaking the date of a commission, may often be amicably corrected by the members themselves in their taking their proper places without waiting for the formal modification of the order. Where the error is less simple, as where its correction will require a construction of the law by the convening officer, the proper course will be to refer to him the question involved for his determination. Now that brevet rank is no longer operative on courts-martial, questions of precedence are less common than formerly. The most recent question of any importance of this class was whether an officer, while acting as aid-de-camp of the General or Lieut. General, should sit on a court according to his increased rank as such or the inferior rank of his actual military office; and it was held by the Judge Advocate General,¹ and the Attorney General² concurring with him, that the former, as being the legal rank of the officer at the time, should determine his relative position on the court.

Questions as to the sufficiency of the charges. On looking over the charges in the case to be tried, copies of which

1. DIGEST, 103-4.

2. XVI Opins. 551. As to the right of precedence, on courts-martial, of assistant surgeons with the rank of captain, see DIGEST, 123.

will properly have been laid before the members by the Judge Advocate, the same may be found by the court to be so clearly defective upon their face as properly to call for revision before trial.¹ As already pointed out, the court has at this stage no authority of itself to make or direct to be made any material modification of the charges. If, therefore, the necessity for such modification is obvious, the court will at once communicate on the subject with the convening commander with a view to having the proper correction or re-framing ordered. Or if the Judge Advocate has already been authorized by such commander to make, with the concurrence of the court, such amendments of the pleadings as may be found desirable, the required changes may be made forthwith.

Other questions. The court at this stage may also entertain any serious consideration—suggested by the form or contents of the convening order, or by the charges, or the two together—respecting its own legality or powers as a military body. But unless the defect be a *palpably fatal* one, which, if not corrected, will clearly invalidate the proceedings, the court will not in general, of its own motion, raise an objection calling in question the original authority of the commander, or its own right to exist or to act, but will leave the same to be regularly raised by the *accused*, presently to be indicated.

After the Introduction of the Accused, and before the Court is Sworn. The principal preliminary business of the court at this stage will consist of—1. Entertaining objections by the accused to further proceedings: 2. Entertaining objections by way of challenge to individual members.

1. At this point the accused, being present, may properly raise, and the court may properly hear and determine,) any objection going to the legal existence of the court or its authority to proceed further in the case. Thus he may object that the court has not been legally constituted or composed, or that it is without jurisdiction either of the person or of the offence or offences charged. While a jurisdictional objection, by way of plea to the jurisdiction, or motion to strike out a charge as not setting forth an offence cognizable by the court, is more commonly made after arraignment, the present is the more appropriate occasion for

See Simmons § 457; De Hart, 111.

raising, arguing and passing upon exceptions to the court as constituted or composed, such exceptions being of a radical character. What objections of this class would be valid and final has already been indicated in the Chapters on the Constitution and Composition of General Courts. The Chapter on Jurisdiction has also exhibited the grounds on which could be based exceptions to the authority of the court to try the accused or the charge. These classes of preliminary objections need not therefore be further considered. It will be sufficient to remark that in case any of the objections referred to be interposed by the accused and sustained by the court, the president¹ will properly communicate the facts to the convening authority for such action as he may deem expedient.

2. Whether or not any exceptions to the court as a whole be taken at this stage,—and such exceptions are comparatively rare,—this time is the proper one for offering objections to the members by way of *challenge* under the 88th Article of war. The subject, however, of such objections, being an extended one will best be considered in a separate Chapter.

IV. INTRODUCTION OF ACCUSED.

Cases of Officer and Soldier Distinguished, &c. The court having no control over the person of the accused outside the court-room,² the accused—if an officer—will be conducted to the presence of the court by the adjutant, officer of the day, or other officer detailed for the purpose; or he will be ordered by the proper superior to appear before the court, or to report to the judge advocate for trial; or, (as where not in arrest,) he will appear voluntarily when notified of the time and place.³ The first form is not commonly resorted to except in a case of close arrest. An enlisted man is usually sent, by the officer of the guard or adjutant, to the court-room under guard, his guard being directed to report to the judge advocate. In the case of a non-commissioned officer a guard may be dispensed with. Upon an adjournment, the accused is remanded, or reverts, to the custody, control, or status which he was under when first introduced.

¹ See DIGEST, 205 § 17.

² Commons § 356, 473; De Hart, 113; DIGEST, 201.

³ At the opening of Gen. Hull's trial it is stated, (p. 3,) that the accused appeared "accompanied by an aid-de-camp."

ced.¹ Whether officer or enlisted man, the accused should appear before the court in uniform; officers and non-commissioned officers without their side-arms or sashes.²

Prisoner not to be Introduced in Irons. The accused should not be introduced with hands or feet fettered, and if he has been previously confined in irons these should be taken off before he is brought into the court-room,—unless there be reasonable apprehension of an attempt to escape or of violence on his part, or of a rescue. It is a principle as old as the common law that, except where such apprehension is entertained, the prisoner, at his arraignment, should be free in all his limbs before the court, so that he may be in no manner hampered in making his defence.³ In the practice of courts-martial, inasmuch as the accused is introduced into the court before arraignment in order to be afforded an opportunity to exercise the right of challenge, his privilege of freedom from physical restraint is allowed him and enforced by the court from and after his first appearance, throughout the trial.

Disposition of Accused when not Presentable, or Ill,

1. If the accused makes his appearance improperly dressed, or in a dirty or unkempt condition, the court may require him to be removed and returned with the neglect remedied. If he is intoxicated, he should not be allowed to be arraigned till he is sober. If he be ill, and unable to leave his quarters or the hospital—a fact which should properly be shown by a medical certificate—the court will ordinarily adjourn to a day on which he is probably appear in a condition to plead and defend.

¹ Simmons § 473.

² See G. O. 29, Dept. of the South, 1872.

³ "Every person, at the time of his arraignment, ought to be treated with all the humanity and gentleness which is consistent with the nature of the thing, and under no other terror or uneasiness than what proceeds from a sense of his guilt and the misfortune of his present circumstances; and therefore ought not to be brought to the bar in a contumelious manner, as with his hands tied together or any other mark of ignominy or reproach, nor even with fetters on his feet, unless there be some danger of a rescous or escape." 2 Hawkins, c. 28, s. 1. And see 2 e. 219; Layer's Case, 16 How., St. Tr., 101, 129; Rex v. Waite, each, 28; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 731, 955; Tytler, 220; Kennedy, 41; Simmons § 473; De Hart, 113; DIGEST, 218-219; People v. Harrington, 42 Cal., 165; G. O. 52, Dept. of the East, 1869; Do. 47, Dept. of the West, 1871.

V. ADMISSION AND STATUS OF COUNSEL.

Proper Time for Admission. It is upon the original introduction or appearance of the accused that his counsel will properly be admitted, if he make application to the court for the purpose.¹ Hughes² fixes the proper time for such application as after the plea; De Hart as after the court has been sworn, though he adds that the privilege "may be allowed at any time."³ It is obvious that, prior to the organization of the court, counsel may be of material assistance to the accused, especially in the presenting of objections to the authority of the court to proceed with the trial, and in the offering and maintaining of challenges; it is at this early stage, therefore, that counsel will most advantageously be admitted.

The Admission a Privilege, not a Right. The admission of counsel for the accused in military cases, though not a right but a privilege only,⁴ is a privilege almost invariably accorded and as a matter of course,⁵ and this whether the counsel proposed to be introduced be a military or civil, professional or unprofessional, person.

But being a privilege, it is subject to be restricted by the court. Thus while an adjournment will in general be had, or a continuance be granted, to afford the accused an opportunity to procure suitable counsel, the court will not delay beyond a reasonable time for such a purpose,⁶ and at a period of war or other public

1. A court-martial has no authority to *assign* counsel. The court, however, or judge advocate, will properly advise an ignorant soldier of his privilege to be assisted by counsel if desired.

2. Page 53.

3. Page 132.

4. See 1 McArthur, 44; Hough, (A.) 38; Kennedy, 95; Hughes, 51; Macomb, 47; Benét, 94; DIGEST, 199. *Contra*, De Hart, 318. And see Tytler, 251.

5. Art. VI of the Amendments to the Constitution provides that "in all criminal prosecutions" the accused shall "have the assistance of counsel for his defence." The reference here is to prosecutions before the *criminal courts of the United States*. *Barron v. Mayor of Baltimore*, 7 Peters, 243; *Ex parte Watkins*, Id., 573; *Twitchell v. Com.*, 7 Wallace, 326; *Edwards v. Elliott*, 21 Id., 557; *Walker v. Sauvinet*, 92 U. S., 90; *Pearson v. Yewdall*, 95 U. S. 294; 1 Bishop, C. L. § 72; Wharton, C. P. & P. § 920. Military courts, however, though not bound by the letter, are within the spirit of the provision.

6. DIGEST, 77, 199; G. C. M. O. 25 of 1875.

emergency, when immediate action is called for, may even refuse to delay at all. So the court may sometimes properly decline to admit the particular person offered as counsel,—as where he is an attorney who has been prohibited on account of misconduct from practising in the executive departments, or an officer dismissed for cowardice or fraud and with whom officers are precluded from associating by the 100th Article of war, or a person of notoriously bad character, or who is otherwise clearly exceptionable.¹ Further the court may exclude a counsel guilty of disrespect or other improper behaviour in its presence, although such behaviour may not be of a sort made punishable by Art. 86.² But where counsel is thus excluded the court will ordinarily allow the accused a reasonable time for procuring other counsel if he desire it.

Status of Counsel. The strict rule which usage formerly prescribed in regard to the action of counsel on military trials, and especially enforced as against professional counsel, was such as to render their position embarrassing if not indeed humiliating. By this rule they were precluded from all *oral* communication, not being permitted to examine witnesses *viva voce*, or to address the court by statement, motion, or argument, but being required to express themselves either through the accused or in writing.³ In his recent edition of 1875, (§ 476,) Simmons states that there

1. In G. O. 73, Dept. of the East, 1865, the admission of a regimental commander as counsel for a member of his regiment, before a court composed entirely of officers of the regiment, was commented upon as improper.

2. A counsel who was a military man would be liable to charges and trial under the circumstances. See the two cases of officers tried for improper conduct while acting as counsel, published in G. C. M. O. 37 of 1873; Do. 5, Dept. of the Platte, 1874.

3. No rule of military procedure has been more strictly insisted upon than this. See Tytler, 251; Delafons, 166; Hough, 673; Kennedy, 95; Napier, 93; Hughes, 53; Hickman, 74; Franklyn, 49; Gorham, 39; Macomb, 30; O'Brien, 236; De Hart, 132, 318; Gilchrist, 16; Gen. Bull's Trial, 14; Capt. Thos. Howe's Trial, 253. G. O. 7, 16, Dept. of the Mo., 1862; Do. 52, Dept. of the Pacific, 1865; Do. 52, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1868; Do. 32, Dept. of the Gulf, 1875; G. C. M. O. 113, Dept. of the East, 1871. This doctrine was carried so far in the British practice that professional counsel were not even allowed to read to the court the concluding defence or statement of the accused. Simmons 586, and other authorities above cited; also Gen. Whitelocke's Trial, 53; Lieut. Hyder's Trial, 106. Warren, (p. 153,) complains that, when acting as counsel before a court-martial, he was permitted only to communicate in whispers with his client.

has not been "any relaxation of the well-established rule of courts-martial as to the silence of professional advisers and the taking no part in the proceedings. On the contrary it has been felt," he adds, that such courts should be "more than ever on their guard to resist any attempt to address them on the part of any but the parties to the trial." But the more recent radical reconstruction of the British military law has done away with the previous usage in this regard; and in the Rules of Procedure (§§ 100 and 101 of 1881, it is declared that the counsel both of the prisoner and the prosecutor at a military trial shall have the same right as a party for whom he appears to call and orally examine and cross-examine witnesses, as well as to make objections and statements put in pleas, and address the court.

As to the practice before courts-martial of the United States, while the doctrine in question is quite strictly laid down in the treatises and in sundry Orders, the actual procedure has become much more indulgent and reasonable; not merely military but professional counsel being in general permitted to examine the witnesses and address the court without objection on the part of the members. Occasionally indeed the old rule is insisted upon at the outset though relaxed later; but more frequently now the same license is allowed at all stages as at an ordinary criminal trial, subject however to a restriction of the privilege which counsel by their prolixity, captiousness, disrespectful manner, or other objectionable trait, fatigue or displease the court.¹ Thus in practice, the old rule is mainly held in reserve, to be enforced by the court at its discretion in exceptional cases. Objection to the reading of the final address, or to a closing oral or written argument, by the counsel, is now of the rarest occurrence.²

1. In some of the cases in which the old rule was enforced, the counsel had either used "scurrilous" language, or had taken up time with inappropriate pleas or motions. See G. O. 16, Dept. of the Mo., 1861; Do. 52, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1868; Do. 32, Dept. of the Gulf, 1865.

2. See G. O. 7, Dept. of the Mo., 1862; Do. 52, Dept. of the Pacific, 1865; also Gen. Porter's Trial, (1862.) In the history of military trials some very able arguments have been delivered by legal counsel; see for example, as those of Hon. T. H. Benton on the trial of Lt. Col. Fremont, of Hon. Reverdy Johnson on the Assassination Conspiracy Trial of Jas. T. Brady on the trial of Beall, and of D. D. Field on the court inquiry in the case of Gen. A. B. Dyer. The ability of the argument of counsel before French *conseils de guerre* has been especially marked as for instance the argument of Berryer on the jurisdiction of the court in the case of Marshal Ney, and that of Lachaud on the merits at the trial of Marshal Bazaine.

Counsel for Parties other than the Accused. The subject of the employment of counsel *to assist the judge advocate* will be remarked upon in Chapter XIII. Where the *prosecuting witness* is properly required to be present during the trial, counsel may be permitted to attend him if he desires it. Such attendance is not of frequent occurrence, but has been acceded to in sundry cases of unusual importance. Whether counsel to represent *other persons interested in the investigation* may be admitted should depend upon their relation, if any, to a recognized "party" in the case. In the leading case on the subject, that of Commander Mackenzie of the navy, in which such admission was applied for,—*viz.* by two counsel, (representing the relatives of the officer executed by order of the accused,) who asked to be allowed to be present, independently, at the trial and examine and cross-examine the witnesses, &c.,—the application was denied by the court. In the army such counsel might perhaps have been admitted on the application of, and to assist, the judge advocate, or prosecuting witness, if any, but scarcely otherwise.

VI. THE CLERK AND OTHER ASSISTANTS OR ATTENDANTS.

Here may be noticed the minor *personnel* of a military investigation, such as reporters, clerks, interpreters, guards, orderlies, and—where specially authorized—provost-marshal.

Reporters. The appointment of the official "reporter" being specially devolved by statute upon the Judge Advocate, his duties, &c., will be remarked upon in Chapter XIII.

Clerks. It is directed by the Army Regulations, par. 930, that—"Whenever it is necessary to employ a clerk to aid the judge advocate, the court may order it; a soldier to be procured where practicable."

An additional clerk for the judge advocate, or a clerk to assist the accused, may, in a case of sufficient importance, be specially authorized by the Secretary of War upon due application.

The court will in general properly fix the *per diem* compensation of a civilian clerk,¹—which will be paid him by the Pay-

1. Soldiers, or other persons in the public service, are not entitled to compensation as clerks of courts-martial, if so employed. Army Regs., ar. 933.

master,' on the certificate of the judge advocate, furnished him at the end of the proceedings and setting forth the number of days on which he has been employed.

Clerks, unlike reporters, are not required to be sworn.

Interpreters. Where any of the proposed witnesses are foreigners who cannot speak our language, or who speak it imperfectly, a competent person is procured by the judge advocate to act as an interpreter on the trial. Interpreters, in our practice, are summoned and paid as witnesses,² and sworn as such. Where a regular interpreter has not been obtained, one of the witnesses present may, if competent, be used as an interpreter of the testimony of the others;³ or a bystander or even one of the court may be resorted to. In an important case, the accused may properly have summoned for him a person as interpreter, by means of whom to correct the translation of an interpreter summoned on the part of the prosecution.⁴

Orderlies, Guards, &c. The necessary attendant or attendants—orderlies, messengers, or guards—will properly be furnished, from the enlisted force present, by the post or local commander, on the application of the judge advocate, whose business it will be to act as messengers for the court and judge advocate, protect the court from disorder, guard public property in the court-room, &c.

Provost-Marshals. In cases of special consequence, involving unusual details of administration, the convening authority if he deem it expedient, may detail an officer as *provost-marshal*.

1. The annual Appropriation Acts, among the items of the appropriation for the Pay Department, specify—"Compensation of civilian clerks and witnesses attending upon courts-martial, military commissions, and courts of inquiry."

The following regulation in regard to the compensation of civilian clerks is contained in the Paymasters' Manual, p. 123, note: "When the rate paid exceeds \$3 per day, the certificate of the judge advocate should show that the employment was ordered, and the rate fixed by the court, and that a competent soldier could not be procured."

2. Circ. 7, 9, 1884. Interpreters are not often required in our practice. The British authorities, especially with reference to their employment in India, are much more full than ours in regard to the qualifications, &c., of interpreters. See Simmons § 477-479; McNaghten, 1 Gorham, 40; Jones, 68; Rules of Procedure, 27 (D), 71 (A), (C).

3. *People v. Ramirez*, 56 Cal. 533.

4. *O'Brien*, 259-260.

whose duty it will be to serve subpoenas, attachments and notices, take charge of prisoners and witnesses, enforce order in the court-room, and otherwise execute the mandates of the court and directions of the judge advocate. The attendance, however, of such an auxiliary official, though apparently not infrequent in the British practice,¹ has, with us, been more commonly resorted to before State militia courts² than before courts-martial of the United States. At the trial of the Conspirators against the life of President Lincoln, &c., in 1865, a 'special provost-marshal' was assigned to attend the commission.³ During the late war provost-marshals were frequently appointed or detailed as executive officials,⁴ but, though sometimes acting as judges of provost courts,⁵ they were rarely employed in connection with general courts-martial.

1. See Simmons § 490. At an early period he executed sentences, and, originally, appears to have been an officer of the Marshal's Court. *ibid.*, 59, 73.

2. See Maltby, 125; *The Militia Reporter*, pp. 9, 106, 159, 249; *Trial of Lt. Col. Bache*, (Pa. Militia,) p. 4.

3. *DIGEST*, 202, note.

4. Provost-marshals were appointed under the Conscription Act of March 3, 1863, as agents for enforcing the draft, arresting persons evading or obstructing the same, &c., under the orders of a Provost Marshal General. Besides these statutory officials, officers of the army are detailed to act as provost-marshals for the performance of multitudinous duties in the large commands. Every duty indeed which did not clearly fall within the specialty of some particular branch of the service seems to have been devolved upon this invaluable class of officers. Among their occupations may be noted the arresting of marauders, aggressors, deserters, soldiers without passes, spies, disorderly persons, persons violating the laws of war, prisoners of war without paroles, &c., the supervision of paroled prisoners, the execution of sentences of death and imprisonment, the examination of deserters from the enemy, the control of the business of sutlers and other traders, the issuing of passes and permits, the care of refugees and freedmen, the charge of captured property, the administering of oaths of allegiance, the regulation of the delivery of the mail and express packages and of the circulation of newspapers, the protection of private property, protecting elections, &c. Among the many Orders prescribing their duties the following may be cited: G. O. 60, 188, Army of the Potomac, 1862; Do. 10, *Id.*, 1863; Do. 35, Dept. of the Mo., 1862; Do. 22, Dept. of the South, 1864; Do. 1, Dept. of the Gulf, 1864; Do. 23, Dept. of Kans., 1864; Do. 4, and Do. 3, Dept. & Army of the Tenn., 1864; Do. 65, Dept. of La., 1865; Do. 1, Dept. of Miss., 1865; G. Field O. 3, Army & Dept. of West Va., 1865; Circ. 12, Dept. of Va., 1865.

The provost-marshal is still recognized in the military code—in Art. 1—as an officer who may have charge of prisoners. See Chapter IX.

. See PART II.

CHAPTER XII.

THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS.

It is with the appearance of the accused that the capacities, individually and relatively, of the other persons concerned in the proceedings begin to have the special significance which they carry through the trial. It will be well therefore to consider here the peculiar functions of the President and Members, and those of the Judge Advocate.

THE PRESIDENT.

Who he is. In the British law, the president of a general court-martial is a distinct official appointed as such separately from the other members. In our law, prior to 1828, he was in general expressly detailed as such. Since that date he has been simply the *senior member*, and no specific designation of a president is now ever made in Orders convening military courts in our service.

The senior in rank of the officers named in the convening order, if present at the assembling of the court, becomes president; if not present, the senior of those who *are* present presides, till a senior to himself arrives or is added to the court. If the presiding officer is removed by any casualty, or is relieved or absents himself, the senior in rank of the members remaining succeeds him. Throughout the trial it is the senior for the time being who presides. If a junior member is promoted in the army above the senior pending the trial, such member becomes president. It is immaterial what may be the actual rank of the senior,¹ or to what branch of the service he belongs: he is president solely because of his seniority in rank in the army to the other members.

1. In the British law, the president of a general court, (except in certain special cases,) "shall not be under the rank of a field officer." An Act § 48, (9.)

His Functions—As Presiding Officer. The only *statutory* function assigned to the president by our law is that of administering the oath to the judge advocate, required of him by the 85th article of war. The Army Regulations, par. 883, (employing the language of the Secretary of War in the case of Backenstos,¹) declare that—"The president of a court-martial, besides his duties and privileges as a member, is the organ of the court to keep order and conduct its business. He speaks and acts for the court in each case where the rule has been prescribed by law, regulation, or its own resolution." According to the function here assigned to him, the president opens the court and calls it to order; announces adjournment at the close of the session, when adjourned by vote of the majority, or at the hour required by Art. 94; preserves order during the session, checking anything like disorder or incivility on the part of the members of the court, the judge advocate, the accused, the counsel,² the witnesses, or the audience, while at the same time seeing that the rights of every one entitled to consideration are respected;³ conducts the routine of the day, calling for or announcing the proper proceedings in season, and takes care that the regular forms of business are duly served. In the absence of objection, he may direct as to the more familiar points of order and procedure, and will properly execute the formal action incidental to the deliberation of the court—such as the submitting to the court of a proposition or motion by a member,⁴ the ordering of the court-room to be cleared at the request of a member, the declaring of the decision of the court after deliberation had, &c. So, in the absence of objection, or where the acquiescence of the court is to be presumed, he may give assent to a member or the judge advocate leaving his seat for a temporary purpose, to a brief consultation between the president and his counsel, or other slight matter of indulgence or civility. But in such and all other cases in which he acts as presiding officer, he simply acts for and in the name of the court. Other than as its representative and mouthpiece he has no separate

¹ See G. O. 14 of 1850, also cited *post*.

² Note in this connection the 1st Specification in G. O. 37 of 1873.

³ "He is responsible that every person attending the court is treated with proper respect." Jones, 70. And see Gorham, 33.

⁴ The president is not authorized to decide that a proposition advanced by a member shall not be submitted to the vote of the court. C. M. O. 55, Dept. of the Mo., 1884.

rate authority. He can neither act independently of the court nor can he act against the will of a majority of the court.¹ On the other hand he cannot trench upon the authority of the Commander—as by excusing a member from attendance,³ &c.

As a Member. In deliberating, voting, and on all occasions of judicial action, the president, in our law, simply counts as a member. As a member he is but the equal of the other members. Upon a question or issue raised he may state his views like any other member, but it is for the court, by a majority, to decide. In the British service, “in the case of an equality of votes on sentence, or any question arising after the commencement of trial except the finding,” the president is given a casting vote. In our law he has no casting vote on any occasion, his vote counting for no more than the vote of any other member.⁶

As Channel of Communication with the Commander. As the official organ of the court it is through him that communications from the convening or reviewing officer should in general be made to the court, and by him that the court should communicate with that authority. As Jones⁷ writes of the same officer in the British law:—“He is the channel of communication between the court and the convening authority.” With us this is deemed to be the regular and official course, though the judge advocate has not unfrequently been made the medium.

1. As by assuming of himself to revise the record. See DIGEST, .

2. See G. O. 14 of 1850, in which the action of Lt. Col. Backens in assuming as president to adjourn the court against the vote of a majority, is condemned as wholly unauthorized and irregular. In recent Orders of the Dept. of Dakota, (G. C. M. O. 89, 165, of 1882,) this point is noticed that the president is not authorized to appoint a day on which the court shall adjourn or the trial be continued, or to change the day which has been fixed by the court.

3. See G. O. 2, Dept. of the Mo., 1862.

4. G. C. M. O. 55, Dept. of the Mo., 1884.

5. Army Act § 54 (8.)

6. DIGEST, 392.

7. Page 70. And Gorham, (p. 33,) observes:—“The president acts in the name of the court in correspondence.”

8. “Strictly, communications from the convening authority to the court as such, (and *vice versa*,) should be made to, (and by,) the president as its organ; communications relating to the conduct of the execution, to, (and by,) the judge advocate.” DIGEST, 205.

As a Source of Command. The president of a court-martial has no command as such. He cannot, as such, issue an *order*, properly speaking, to a member or the judge advocate, or to any other military person present. A failure, however, to comply with his reasonable and proper directions in keeping order and conducting the business of the court, while it will not subject the delinquent to a charge of disobedience of orders in violation of Art. 21, will render him amenable to trial under Art. 62.¹ The president may call upon members who have absented themselves from a session, or part of one, for an explanation of such absence, but in such requirement, or any other which he may properly make, he does not act in the capacity of superior or commander, and if his requirement is not duly complied with he can only, (in concurrence with the other members,) report the fact to the convening authority for *his* action.²

As Authenticating Officer. The Army Regulations, par. 914, direct that the president of a court-martial shall, (with the judge advocate,) authenticate its record and certify the sentence pronounced by it in each case. These acts must be performed by the member who is the senior in rank of the members present at the completion of the proceedings, although during all the proceedings prior to the final another officer may have been senior and president.³ The *form* of his authentication, &c., will be indicated in treating of the Record.

THE MEMBERS.

A Majority to Govern. We have seen that the law gives to each member, the president included, an equal voice, and it is to be added that all questions and issues, which are required to be passed upon by the court in the course of the proceedings, are decided by a majority vote. This general rule applies to the questions which arise upon the finding and in the adjudging of the sentence equally as to the questions and issues raised by challenges, special pleas, objections to testimony, applications for continuance, motions and other interlocutory proceedings; and to questions raised by or among the members themselves equally

1. DIGEST, 392.

2. G. C. M. O. 29, Dept. of Texas, 1884.

3. DIGEST, 418.

as to those raised on the part of the accused or judge advocate. The only exception to the rule is that prescribed by Art. 96—that a two-thirds vote shall be required to adjudge a capital sentence. But the finding of guilty which must precede such a sentence may be arrived at by a majority as in all other cases.

Tie Vote. All the members must vote where a vote is required, but a tie vote, when they are of an even number, is no vote, or rather is not a majority and can have no effect as such. That is to say, a proposition upon which the vote is a tie is not carried.¹ The application of this principle to the finding and sentence will be illustrated hereafter.

Mode of Voting. As to the manner of voting the only provision of the written law is that of Art. 95, that:—"Members of a court-martial, in giving their votes, shall begin with the youngest in commission," *i. e.* the junior member. The main object of this provision, which, taken from the then existing British code,² first appeared in our original Articles of 1775, appears to be to secure the members junior in rank from being influenced in their opinions by the views of their seniors. "In no other way," observes Clode,³ "could this freedom be secured." The form and rule of voting which usage has prescribed in deliberating upon the Judgment will be noticed in a subsequent Chapter.

The Members to Act as a Unit. Whatever may be the personal opinions of individuals, and however slight may be the majority by which a result is arrived at, the members in their decision and action must be and appear as a unit. That this is required is but an illustration of the principle that all military action must, as far as practicable, be summary, final and conclusive. Thus a ruling upon a plea or exception is the ruling not of such members as have concurred in it, or of such majority, but of the court, a finding is the finding of the court, a sentence is the sentence of the court—as a unit. The law ignores differences of opinion—majorities or minorities.

¹ *Pract.*, 170.

² See Art. VII. or Sec. XV. of 1705, in Appendix. Its original is found in the "English Military Discipline" of James II. See Appendix.

³ *Mil. Law*, 180. And see to a similar effect, 2 *McArthur*, 259; *T. & L. R.*, 180; *De Hart*, 175.

ties—in the result, and even prohibits the disclosure of the votes and opinions by which such result has been attained. With the civil tribunals a majority of the judges pronounce the judgment of the court, but who constitute the majority is made known, and the minority may, and often do, express their dissenting views.¹ With military courts all dissent is merged and lost in the conclusion reached, whatever it may be, of the court, which thus, to the parties, the public and the readers of its record, appears as an integral and indivisible whole. In view of this principle, no act performed by a part of the court can be legal,² nor can an individual member be permitted to take any official action independently of or counter to the court. Thus a member or members cannot legally enter upon the record a protest against a ruling or judgment of the majority, *i. e.* the court, however erroneous or unjust the same may be. So, the president or a member cannot, on a revision, correct an error in the recorded proceedings, but the correction must be made as the act of the court. Individual members may make, independently or in combination, a recommendation to clemency, but this is because the same is a *personal act*, not an official proceeding of the court. These illustrations of the general principle will be separately recurred to hereafter.

Not to Assume Incompatible Functions. Status as a Witness. For example, a member, while acting as such, cannot, at the same time, properly act—even temporarily and briefly—as judge advocate, in recording the proceedings or otherwise.³ Nor can he, while remaining, *i. e.* without being relieved as, a member, act as counsel for the accused.⁴ He may indeed, without affecting the legality of the proceedings, testify as a witness, even where there are with him but five members present, since, in so doing, he is not disqualified as, and does not cease to be, a member.⁵ But, except when called to testify merely as to

1. So, where *juries* disagree, the numbers on either side are commonly (though generally irregularly and improperly) made public.

2. See Simmons § 530.

3. DIGEST, 204, 297. And see G. O. 2, Dept. of the Platte, 1868.

4. DIGEST, 200; G. C. M. O. 62, 1874; G. O. 134, Dept. of the Mo., 1863; Do. 119, Id., 1867; Do. 29, Dept. of the Lakes, 1870.

5. DIGEST, 322, 483; Sullivan, 58; Simmons § 511, 947; Clode, M. L., 127-8; G. O. 11, Dept. of the N. West, 1864. And compare People v. Dohring, 59 N. Y. 374, 377, where, one of the judges necessary to

character, it is most undesirable that a member should in the position of a material witness upon a trial w act as a judge.¹ In this connection Gilchrist² observes that it is ascertained previous to the assembly of the court evidence of an officer nominated on a court-martial he should be immediately relieved; and if a member, his seat and being sworn in, is called on to depose to demands that he should not resume his seat as a me cide on evidence he has himself given." So, in a G during the war,³ the appearing as a witness by a me favored "for the reason that the facts to which he c to some extent be colored with his opinions," and be he resumes his seat, he will have "to decide between t credit to be given to the testimony of other witnesses with his own." But some exigency of the service, or a small number of officers are available for court-m will now and then prevail against considerations of tl and require that an officer personally informed of the case to be tried should be placed upon the detail and t the court.⁴ In such a case it is better that the of testify openly as a witness on the stand subject to cro tion than that he should be exposed to the temptat municating his knowledge to his fellow member court—a proceeding wholly condemned at military l

Absence of Member from Court. The deta officer as a member of a court-martial is an *order* rec

complete the court having testified as a witness at the trial that—his "mere absence from the bench, while he was in box, did not affect the jurisdiction of the court." On Gen. trial, Brig. Gen. King, a member of the court, testified as the merits for the prosecution, without objection by the accus Trial, p. 203-205. On the trial of Lieut. Devlin of the N in 1852, three of the nine members of the court testified as the merits.

1. DIGEST, 322, 483. And see Sullivan, 58.

2. Duties of a Judge Advocate, p. 9.

3. G. O. 11, Dept. of the N. West, 1864.

4. That is to say, if not challenged off as he properly knowledge has in fact prejudiced his mind. See Chapter

5. Simmons § 947; Griffiths, 112; Maltby, 68. That a f legally be based upon the individual knowledge of a membe ter XIX.

attend and act as such: moreover when an officer has been detailed for a trial, the accused has a certain right to his presence, if not duly excused or prevented by some sufficient cause from attending.¹ It is clear that a member cannot declare himself to be ineligible, or on any other ground excuse himself from attending;² and further that, if not regularly excluded upon challenge, he can be excused only by illness, or some stringent and for the time insuperable casualty or emergency.³ When prevented from attending by sickness or other controlling cause, the member is required by the usage of the service to communicate to the president or judge advocate the cause of his absence, so that the same may appear explained upon the record.⁴ If the absence is occasioned by sickness, the officer should forward a proper medical certificate in reference to the same, and this should be appended to the record.⁵ A court-martial may in general properly adjourn for a short interval to await the recovery of a member temporarily indisposed.⁶

An obligation to explain his absence—the cause of his detention—rests also upon a member who attends the court at a late stage of a session, or after having failed to be present at a previous session. As already indicated it is proper in such a case for the presiding officer to call upon the member for the explanation due, and if he refuses to give one, or gives a frivolous or

1. See G. O. 4, Div. Atlantic, 1874.

2. See G. O. 66, Dept. of the Platte, 1871.

3. G. O. 60, Dept. of the Platte, 1871. That a member was attending a post council of administration has been held an insufficient excuse, for the reason that the attendance on the general court-martial, enjoined as it was by a superior commander, was a paramount duty. G. O. 10, Dept. of the Lakes, 1867. So it was held an insufficient excuse that the member was engaged on 'other duty at the post,' since a post commander, unless in some exceptional emergency, is not authorized to place or retain officers on duties interfering with their due attendance on general courts. G. O. 106, Dept. of Dakota, 1871.

4. DIGEST, 320; Simmons § 526; G. O. 50, Dept. of the East, 1863. It is not sufficient to record that the cause of absence is 'unknown,' where the same may be readily ascertained by the court. G. O. 8, Dept. of the Gulf, 1873.

5. See G. O. 44, Dept. of the Platte, 1871.

6. Simmons § 526. Hough, (P.) 712, mentions a case in which, a member being sick, the court assembled at his quarters.

insufficient one, he becomes amenable to a charge for the offence involved.¹

Return of Absent Member as affecting Legality of Proceedings. The question has been considerably discussed whether a member who has been absent during a material portion of a trial may legally return and resume his seat. In the majority of the treatises it has been declared that, where evidence has been received during the member's absence, he cannot be permitted to return and act as member without invalidating the judgment of the court.²

In this country, however, the military practice has not in general accorded with this doctrine. In 1814, upon the question being raised upon the trial of Brig. Gen. Hull and submitted to the Secretary of War for decision, it was formally held by him that a member who had been obliged to absent himself for an interval from the court could properly return and resume his functions, providing the proceedings had and evidence taken during his absence were read to him as recorded.³ In consequence of this ruling, a member who had been absent on account of illness for four days on each of which evidence had been introduced for the defence, was, with the assent of the accused, re-admitted to the court,—the testimony received in the interval being first read to him,—and continued on the court to the day of taking part in the findings and sentence. On Capt. D. Porter's trial in 1825,⁴ when on two occasions a member became sick and unable to attend, the court proceeded with the case with the express understanding, concurred in by the accused, that when the member returned, (as in each instance he did,) the proceedings had during his absence should be read to him from the record. On Com. Mackenzie's trial in 1843,⁵ a member who had been absent for two days during which no testimony had been received was re-admitted; but the same member, having su-

1. The law on this subject is pointedly illustrated in a late case in *C. M. O.* 29, Dept. of Texas, 1884.

2. Hough, 666; Simmons § 530; Franklyn, 46; Tulloch, 5; Jones, 72; Gorham, 35; O'Brien, 260; De Hart, 92. And see, for a similar effect, II Opins. At. Gen., 414; IV Id. 7.

3. Printed Trial, Ap., p. 29. And see DIGEST, 320.

4. Printed Trial, pp. 367, 376.

5. Printed Trial, pp. 9, 107.

quently been absent sick for three days during the taking of evidence, it was decided by the court on his return that he should be "excused from further attendance." One of the charges in this case—it is to be remarked—was "murder." On Com. Wilkes' trial in 1864,¹ two members who had been absent on account of illness during the hearing of testimony returned and resumed their seats without objection, the proceedings had and evidence received meanwhile being read to them. In the case of one of them the testimony was read in the presence of the two witnesses who had testified in the interim, they pronounced it correctly recorded, and the member declared that he had no questions to put to them. On the trial by military commission of Dodd and others in Indiana, in 1864,² wherever members were absent through sickness or other unavoidable cause, the trial was, with the consent of the accused, proceeded with; the members, with the same consent, subsequently resuming their seats and having read to them the testimony introduced in their absence. In Capt. Downing's case, where a member who had been absent for two days on account of illness was not permitted by the court to resume his seat, the opinion was expressed, (in 1855,) by Atty. Gen. Cushing,³ that the court had no such power to exclude the member, and that "whether the absent member shall act or not upon his return must depend upon his own views of propriety and not upon those of the court."

In our present practice, members who have absented themselves during the hearing of testimony retake their places in general without objection; and that their action does not affect the validity of proceedings or sentence, (provided five members have meanwhile been present,) is believed not now to be questioned. Such action, however, (which is not indeed frequent,) is irregular and certainly not to be encouraged;⁴ and Mr. Cushing, in the opinion last cited, has noted how much less satisfactory it must in general be to hear testimony read than to receive it from the witnesses in person, observing at the same time their manner and bearing. Where indeed there is reason to believe

1. Printed Trial, pp. 136, 145.

2. Printed Trial, pp. 9, 73.

3. VII Opins., 98, 102, 103.

4. See G. O. 78, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1867; G. C. M. O. 80, Div. of the Pacific, and Dept. of Cal., 1880.

that such action may have resulted in any injustice or material disadvantage to an accused party who has been convicted, the fact will properly induce a disapproval of the findings and sentence or a mitigation of the punishment adjudged.¹

Introduction of a New Member Pending the Trial

The above-cited ruling of the Secretary of War on Gen. Hull's trial covered also the case of a *new member* who, it was held, could be added to the court in the course of the trial, without affecting the validity of the subsequent proceedings, provided he were made acquainted with the proceedings had prior to his introduction. No new member was actually detailed on the trial. The ruling, however, has been recognized in our practice as authorizing the convening authority to add a member or members to the court pending the trial, where necessary to prevent a failure of justice by reason of the court, in an important case, being reduced by some casualty below five.² This subject has already been remarked upon in the Chapter on the Composition of General Courts.

Change of Rank or Status of a Member while on the Court. That an officer is promoted while acting as a member of a court-martial affects in no manner his capacity on the court. The *fact* is properly noted in the record, and ma

1. DIGEST, 321. In repeated cases of trials during the war, in which members who had been absent during the hearing of material evidence were re-admitted, to participate in the trial and judgment, and it did not appear that the accused had assented to such re-admission, the proceedings were disapproved by the reviewing authority. See G. O. 99, Dept. of the Ohio, 1864; Do. 36, Mid. Mil. Dept., 1865; Do. 66, Dept. of the Platte, 1871; Do. 2, Id., 1868; Do. 5, Dept. of N. Mexico, 1865; Do. 86, Dept. of the South, 1864; Do. 44, Dept. of the East, 1865; Do. 13, Id., 1866; Do. 107, Dept. of the Mo., 1863; Do. 76, Second Md. Dist., 1868; Do. 54, Fifth Id., 1870. In most or some of these cases the action taken was probably induced by a consideration of possible injustice done the accused.

2. As to the undesirableness of such a measure, where it can be avoided consistently with the interests of the service, see DIGEST, 321. G. G. M. O. 9, Dept. of Texas, 1883. In the General Orders, while the introduction of new members has been treated as an irregularity, it has not in general induced a disapproval of the sentence, except where it not appear from the record that the member had been made acquainted with the evidence taken before his appearance. See G. O. 99, Arm., the Potomac, 1862; Do. 46, Dept. of the East, 1864.

perhaps give the officer precedence over another member or members and thus change his seat, but this is all.

If a member of a court-martial receives notice that he is retired, or is dismissed or discharged from the service, or that his resignation has been accepted, the fact should be at once noted on the record and the member should thereupon vacate his seat. A retired officer is not eligible to sit upon a court-martial, and an officer, upon being dismissed or discharged, or upon his resignation taking effect, becomes forthwith a civilian.¹

Behaviour of the Members. It is quaintly announced in Art. 87, that—"All members of a court-martial are to behave with decency and calmness," a directory provision dating back in our law to the Articles of 1775, which derived it, in substance, from Art. 48 of the Code of James II. It will be of course for the president, "the organ of the court to keep order," to require an observance of this Article in the first instance.² A member who fails to behave with decency and calmness, *i. e.* behaves in a disorderly and disrespectful manner, especially after a warning from the president, though not liable to be proceeded against as for a contempt under Art. 86,³ will of course be subject to charges under Art. 62 or Art. 61, and this indeed independently of the provision of Art. 87. In a few cases published in Orders, members of courts-martial have been tried for drunken and disorderly conduct and disrespectful language in the presence of the court and severely sentenced.⁴

Their Course upon the Investigation. While the members may, and in practice not unfrequently do, not only put questions to the witnesses for the purpose of bringing out facts or elucidating the issue, but also take exceptions to ques-

1. DIGEST, 321-2. In G. O. 104, Dept. of Ky., 1865, the proceedings in fifteen cases are disapproved for the reason that a member of the court acted thereon for part of a day, after having received notice of his muster-out of service.

2. See Hough, 375.

3. G. O. 14 of 1850; Army Regulations, par. 884.

4. See G. O. 1 of 1858; Do. 66, Dept. of the Mo., 1866; G. C. M. O. Fourth Mil. Dist., 1867. That members should not commit the disorder of vacating their seats before the president has announced that the court has adjourned, is noticed in G. C. M. O. 55, Dept. of the Mo., 1884.

tions proposed in the course of the examination, it is incompatible with their function as judges to assume a controlling attitude or anything like an active part upon the trial. In a recent case in the Department of Dakota, it is remarked by General Terry, that 'members of courts-martial are not of counsel either for the government or the accused, and it is no part of their business to try a case as such counsel,' and that therefore "the frequent interposition of objections by members of a court is a vicious practice and should be discountenanced."¹

Special Obligation of Members on being Sworn. The obligations devolved upon members of courts-martial on taking the oath prescribed by Art. 84 will be considered in Chapter XV.

Personal Liability of Members. The *civil* liability of members to persons aggrieved where the court has proceeded without jurisdiction or otherwise illegally, or has imposed an illegal punishment, is a subject which will be considered in PART III of this work.

As to liability to *military* arrest and charges—the fact that an officer has been detailed and is acting as a member of a court-martial exempts him, as already noticed, in no manner from either. Indeed an officer who by the commission of a substantial military offence has made himself liable to arrest and trial should not be allowed to remain on court-martial duty. If it can be avoided, however, an officer should certainly not be placed on arrest while sitting upon the court as a member: the proceeding of arrest should be deferred till the close of the day's session or at least to a recess of the court.²

Liability to Perform other Duty while Member. This subject is regulated by part one of the Army Regulations which lay down the employment of officers who are members of courts-martial assembled at places at or near which they are stationed. As to officers serving as members of courts at

¹ See *U. S. A. G. O. Div. 5. Dec. 10. Dakota. 1881. Do. 42. Id. 1883.*

² *Id. 1883. Do. 42.*

³ This is now done in the Regulations of 1883, explained and modified by *U. S. A. G. O. Div. 5.*

⁴ See below as to court of this subject in *U. S. A. G. O. 5. Div. Part 1883.*

from their proper stations, the general rule is that they to be regarded as subject to orders requiring them to perform duty while they remain members. In an emergency they may be so required; but in such a case the court will, if necessary, be dissolved or adjourned, or the member or members for different duties be relieved.

Authority to Recommend to Clemency. This, which is only *personal, i. e.* unofficial, authority which members of the court may exercise in relation to the accused, will be treated in its proper order in connection with the subject of sentence, in Chapter XX.

CHAPTER XIII.

THE JUDGE ADVOCATE.

Early Use of the Term. The province of the Judge Advocate, as now understood, appears to have first become defined in the British Articles of the seventeenth century. The term "Judge," at present without significance, may be deemed to be derived from the remote period when the officers who corresponded in a measure to the later judge advocate, (or "judge-martial," as he was once also styled,)—notably the *Schultheiss* of the early and the Auditor (*Auditeur*) of the late German military law,—exercised a species of jurisdiction of their own; the latter official named having a vote on the court.*

The Existing Law. The statutes which relate to the appointment, duties, powers, &c., of judge advocates of American courts-martial are the 74th, 84th, 85th, 90th, and 113th of the Articles of war, and Secs. 1202 and 1203, Revised Statutes. Some of the details of their employment are regulated by parts 882, 889, 892, 893, 914, 915, 917, 918 and 919 of the Army Regulations. Their function, however, is to a considerable extent determined by the usages of the service. These provisions and usages will be referred to in the course of this Chapter, the subject of which will be considered under the heads of:—I. The Appointment of the Judge Advocate; II. His Authority and Duties.

* See the "English Military Discipline" of James II, of 1686; also Articles of war of Charles II, of 1666. This officer is also mentioned in the original Mutiny Act of 1689.

† Von Molitor and other German authorities noted in Chapter V. And compare the provision, as to the "Advocate of the Army," in Art. 1, (Sec. VI,) of Charles I. Another view of the term "Judge" appears to be that it was applied as substantially synonymous with *Asses* the Judge Advocate being regarded as present with the court in capacity of a *quasi* judicial adviser. See Clode, M. L., 126; *Id.*, 21, 363.

THE APPOINTMENT OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE.

the Earlier Law on the Subject—Provision of Art. 74 as affected by Art. 74. The statutory law authorizing detailing of judge advocates was confused and uncertain till made clear by the introduction in the revised code of 1874 of a plain and simple provision—in Art. 74—that, “*Officers who may command a court-martial shall be competent to appoint a judge advocate for the same.*” Prior to the revision, the statutory authority for the purpose was that expressed in Art. 69 of 1806, which was repeated in the present Art. 90, as follows: “*The Judge Advocate, or some person deputed by him, or by the general or officer commanding the army, detachment, or garrison, shall prosecute in the name of the United States.*”

The original of this provision was the early British article:—“The Judge Advocate General, or some person deputed by him, shall prosecute in His Majesty’s name.” This, in our code of 1776, was expressed in precisely the same terms except that, in place of the last three words, was substituted—“the name of the United States of America.” The succeeding Articles of 1786 prescribed that prosecutions before courts-martial should be conducted by “the Judge Advocate,” (as the Judge Advocate General was indifferently styled in the Resolutions of Congress prior to the Constitution,²) “or some person deputed by him, or by the general or officer commanding the army,” &c.

After the adoption of the Constitution, the Act of March 3, 1794, in reorganizing the military establishment, and making provision for a single Brigadier General as the officer highest in rank in the army, provided further for a “Judge Advocate.” This office, however, was discontinued by the operation of the Act of March 16, 1802, by which it was at the same time enacted:—“*Whenever a general court-martial shall be ordered, the President of the United States may appoint some fit person to act as judge advocate, * * * and in cases where the President has not have made such appointment, the Brigadier General or President of the court may make the same.*” In the code of

See Art. VI of Sec. XV, of 1765, in Appendix.

During the Revolutionary war the most important prosecutions, as those of Maj. Gens. Arnold, Lee, Schuyler, and St. Clair, Lt. Enos and Zedwitz, and Major André, were conducted by Lt. Col. Tudor or Col. John Lawrance, as Judge Advocate General.

Articles of 1806, the provision of 1786 was re-enacted in Art. 69. But as there was at that date no "Judge Advocate" of the Army, this article did not substantially affect for the time the operation of the Act of 1802.

Maltby¹ cites this Act as in force in 1813. O'Brien² and De Hart³ refer to it as in operation at the dates of their treatises, January and August, 1846. As late as in 1840 we find a General Order,⁴ (issued from Army Headquarters,) authorizing the president of a general court to appoint the judge advocate. But meanwhile the specific officer designated in the Act as "the Brigadier General" had ceased to exist as such; and in March, 1849, the office of Judge Advocate of the Army was revived by Congress.⁵ After this date the provision of 1802 became practically obsolete, the Articles of war being now treated as the source of the authority for the detailing of judge advocates for courts-martial.

There were, however, no *deputations* of judge advocates ever made by the officer appointed Judge Advocate under the Act of 1849,⁶ and thenceforth the judge advocate was invariably detailed by the authority convening the court, viz. the President or Commander-in-chief, or the competent military commander. This usage, based apparently upon a liberal construction of the term "army" in the then Art. 69 as properly including the "department" command referred to in Art. 65,⁷ had prevailed to the date of the recent revision in 1874. Meanwhile—it may be added—no deputations of judge advocates for general court were ever made by the Judge Advocate General, or by any officer of the corps of Judge Advocates of the Army created by the Act

1. Page 123.

2. Page 353. And see *Id.*, p. 229.

3. Page 307.

4. G. O. 19 of 1840.

5. Meantime certain "division" judge advocates had been authorized by Acts of 1812, 1816 and 1818, and appointed, but their appointment did not materially modify the operation of the existing law. The last of these temporary officers were done away with by an Act of June, 1821.

6. The author, having discovered no such deputation of record, further verified the statement in the text by a personal reference to the officer himself, the late Major John F. Lee.

7. De Hart, p. 307-8, refers to the "broad interpretation" given to the existing law on this subject.

of 1862,¹ and none have been made to the present time, although the provision of Art. 69 of the code of 1806, authorizing such a deputing by the "Judge Advocate" has, as already indicated, been continued in Art. 90 of the present code, above cited.

It is thus perceived that, as heretofore remarked, the present Art. 74, which is at once a declaration and an enactment of a long-prevailing usage, comprises in brief the existing law on the subject of the authority to appoint judge advocates for military courts; the provision of Art. 90 being now quite unimportant and in part obsolete.

Construction of Art. 74. This statute is simple and easy of construction. A few points, however, may be noticed under it—upon some of which express rulings have been made—as follows:

1. *The Article not only an authority but a requirement.* Considered by itself this article is simply an enabling statute, but considered in connection with Arts. 84 and 85, and especially the former which prescribes the administering of the oath by the judge advocate to the members of the court, it must be construed as a requirement,—as in substance enjoining that whenever a court-martial is appointed a judge advocate shall be appointed for it. And this construction accords with the long-continued usage of the service in regard to the ordering of general courts.

2. *It applies to inferior as well as general courts.* But the above reasoning is equally applicable to the ordering of regimental and garrison courts, since Art. 84 requires that the oath shall be administered to the members of these courts also by the judge advocate. That judge advocates are to be detailed for garrison courts is also apparently contemplated in Art. 90. The Judge Advocate General, therefore, in December, 1879, held that the authority conferred by Art. 74 was not to be regarded as

1. This corps, by Act of July 5, 1884, was, with the office of Judge Advocate General, consolidated into a "Judge Advocate General's Department" comprising one Brigadier General, one Colonel, three Lieut. Colonels, and three Majors. These officers, like those of the original corps, while sometimes detailed as judge advocates of general courts-martial in special cases, have other and various functions as the law-officers of the Army.

restricted to officers empowered to order general courts but equally exercisable by those empowered to order inferior α under Arts. 81 and 82. This view was soon after adopted announced by the Secretary of War,¹ and judge advocates β since been detailed for regimental and garrison equally as general courts-martial, in our army.

3. By whom the authority may be exercised. It is effect of the Article that the judge advocate is to be appointed, in practice he *is* appointed,) by the commander who, (being then empowered by the Articles of war,) convenes the court-mart By the almost invariable usage of our service the court is orde and the judge advocate appointed in and by the same Order. γ authority to detail the judge advocate cannot be delegated to assumed by an inferior or other commander. At an early period between 1821 and 1838—a practice, imitated from the Brit service, prevailed in our army, of delegating, in Orders from War Department, (or Headquarters of the Army,) appoint courts-martial, to the commander of the post at which the α was to assemble, the authority to select and detail the judge vocate for the same.² But such practice, which was with warrant in the Articles of war, has been long since discontinued and at present the members and the judge advocate are invariably alike detailed by the officer ordering the court; nor would a α mander of less authority be empowered to relieve a judge advocate so detailed or to appoint a new one. Thus, in a case in δ where an inferior ("District") commander to the Department commander who ordered the court, detailed a judge advocate the same, in the absence of the judge advocate originally pointed by his superior, the proceedings were disapproved by latter as reviewing authority.³

Nor of course can the *court* appoint a judge advocate, even a temporary purpose. Thus it was held by the Judge Advoc

1. In G. O. 15, of February, 1880, since declared by the same authority to be mandatory in its terms. See DIGEST, 296, note.

2. The last order of this kind noted by the author is dated March 1838. In most of the cases the court was ordered to meet at W Point; in the others at Fort Monroe, Fort Leavenworth, or Jefferson B racks. The delegation, by the same class of Orders, of the authority to detail also *members* of the court, has been noticed in a previous Chapter.

3. G. O. 70, Dept. of the Mo., 1863.

general' that a court-martial was not empowered to direct its junior member to act in the place of the regular judge advocate where the latter had been relieved in the course of a trial without a successor being appointed. In a similar case in the Department of the Platte,² where a court had assumed to appoint one of its members judge advocate on the occasion of the one appointed in the convening order being temporarily called to take the stand as a witness, the proceedings and sentence were disapproved by the Department commander.

4. *Extent of the authority.* The authority conferred by the Article is not exhausted by the detailing of a judge advocate for the court at the outset. The judge advocate originally appointed may be prevented by illness from continuing the prosecution, or by reason of his promotion or some exigency or incident of the service, other duties may properly be devolved upon him. In any such case the officer by whom he was appointed, (or his successor in the command,) may relieve him and appoint another in his stead,³ and this proceeding may if necessary be repeated.⁴ That the judge advocate cannot relieve *himself* from any part of his duty need hardly be added.⁵

5. *Eligibility for appointment as judge advocate.* There is nothing in the present Article or elsewhere in the code to preclude the employment of enlisted men as judge advocates;⁶

1. DIGEST, 204, 297.

2. G. O. 2 of 1868. And see an almost identical case in G. C. M. O. 27, Navy Dept., 1882.

3. DIGEST, 297; Simmons § 532; Hough, (P.) 706-7; Clode, M. L., 126; O'Brien, 260.

4. In a case published in G. O. 54, Dept. of the East, 1864, it is noted that three judge advocates officiated successively during the trial.

On the other hand, the same officer may be appointed as judge advocate for a number of successive or different courts-martial, provided he be detailed anew in a separate order for each separate court. DIGEST, 36.

5. That the judge advocate cannot, even with the concurrence of the court, excuse himself from officiating—a point now too well established for discussion—was in substance ruled at the trial of Gen. Wilkinson, 1815, where the judge advocate having 'begged leave, with the permission of the court, to decline' to undertake the responsibility devolved upon him, it was held by the court 'that it was his duty to proceed with the trial.'

6. The most recent recorded instance known of an enlisted man acting

the usage of the service, however, has sanctioned the appointment as such of commissioned officers only.

Under the general terms of Art. 74, an officer of any cor-
branch of the service, whether of the line or staff, may be
tailed as a judge advocate.¹ While judge advocates are
commonly selected from officers of the line, it is by no means
unusual to detail staff officers as such at remote posts or where
the command is supplied with but a limited number of
officers. Under such circumstances, assistant surgeons especially
have been thus employed,² and the corps of post chaplains
(though its members are legally eligible therefor,³) is the
one from which such details are not from time to time made.
As already indicated, officers of the Judge Advocate General's
Department of the Army are sometimes resorted to for the
conduct of prosecutions of unusual importance.

Nor does the *rank* of the officer affect his eligibility under
Article.⁴ A general officer may as legally be appointed a judge
advocate as may a lieutenant. Except, however, in the rare case
in which the Judge Advocate General or a Deputy Judge Advocate
General officiates, the rank of the officer detailed as judge
advocate is not usually above that of major.

6. A civilian may be appointed. The Article simply
authorizes the appointment of "a judge advocate," without
specifying whether or not he shall be a military person,⁵ and
he may legally be a civilian has been uniformly held.⁶ In
British service the Judge Advocate General and Deputy Judge
Advocate General, who formerly officiated at the principal courts

1. Judge advocate is that referred to in Joint Resolution, No. 2
March 3, 1855, where Congress makes an extra allowance to a private
soldier of a regiment of Tennessee Volunteers employed in the Seminole
war, "in full satisfaction for his services as judge advocate in the
war in said war."

2. DIGEST, 296.

3. The practice of employing medical officers as judge advocates
from an early period in our service. See cases in G. O. 14 of 1832;
57 of 1822; Do. 62 of 1821.

4. DIGEST, 296.

5. A commissioned officer *without rank*, as a professor of the Military
Academy, would be legally eligible.

6. Art. 90 simply indicates him as "some person."

7. DIGEST, 297; De Hart, 99, 316; Benét, 244; Coppée, 57.

y court-martial within the kingdom, are civilian lawyers.¹ Under the present Rules of Procedure² the judge advocate of a general court is required merely to be "a fit person," and while he is in general an officer of the army, it is recognized that he may be a civilian.³

In the American military service the judge advocates of courts-martial have from the beginning been, with few exceptions, officers of the army. The "division" judge advocates appointed under the Acts of 1812 and 1816 were civilians with major's pay, but these were superseded by military officers in 1818. In some of the earlier cases a "special judge advocate," who was a civilian lawyer, was designated to act in connection with the regular judge advocate; and in this capacity Hon. Martin Van Buren, (afterwards President of the United States,) was appointed for the trials of Brig. Gen. Hull in 1813 and Maj. Gen. Wilkinson in 1814. Between 1818 and the period of the late war,⁴ as also during the continuance of the war,⁵ the employment of civilians as judge advocates was of rare occurrence.

In our *naval* service, on the contrary, the judge advocates officiating at trials within the United States were, in general, up to a recent period, counsellors at law.⁶ Since the passage, however, of the Act of June 22, 1870, by s. 17 of which, (now Sec. 189, Rev. Sts.,) was transferred to the Department of Justice the authority to employ counsel for the executive departments,

1. 2 Clode, (M. F.) 362, 364; Hughes, 5; Gorham, 37; Jones, 63. The Judge Advocate General is a member of the existing Ministry and Privy Councillor. See Manual, 198.

Outside of Great Britain the officiating judge advocates were usually military officers. Hughes, 180; Jones, 64. At trials under martial law, civilians were not unfrequently selected. As at Rev. J. Smith's trial at Demerara, in 1823. Simmons (§ 462, note,) states that—"On the trial of the Canadian rebels by martial law, in 1838 and 1839, three persons, one officer and two civilians, were 'jointly and severally' appointed to the duty of judge advocate."

2. See § 99. (A.)

3. Manual, 544.

4. By the Act of Feb. 18, 1832, c. 19, a special appropriation of thirty dollars is made for the services of a civilian named, as judge advocate at a certain trial "before a court-martial ordered by Gen. Wilkinson during the late war."

5. Two cases of distinguished civilians who acted as judge advocates at important trials in 1865, are mentioned in the DIGEST, p. 297, note.

6. At foreign stations an officer of the navy has generally been detailed. Harwood, 49.

neither the Secretary of the Navy nor the Secretary of War has been authorized to retain at the public expense a civilian lawyer to act as judge advocate of a court-martial.¹ Thus while the employment of a civilian in this capacity is as *legal* as ever, resort will rarely be had to one, and only in some important and difficult case requiring, for its efficient prosecution, special professional skill and experience. In such a case the Secretary of War, (or the Secretary of the Navy,) will properly call upon the Attorney General, as the head of the Department of Justice, to employ a lawyer to act either as judge advocate, or preferably as counsel to *assist* the regular military (or naval) judge advocate in the conduct of the trial.²

Limit of the Authority of Appointment. No person other than the official judge advocate can be detailed or can act as judge advocate. This—a point now beyond question, since the existing law clearly makes provision for but one judge advocate—was substantially held in 1814 in Maj. Gen. Wilkinson's case, in which, as already noticed, Martin Van Buren, then a civilian lawyer, was appointed to act as "special judge advocate" in addition to the "army judge advocate." The accused having objected in writing to his appearing in the case, it was ruled by the court that he could not legally do so, and he retired. This action is the more marked for the reason that he had acted in the same capacity on the trial of Brig. Gen. Hull in the preceding year, and without objection. In a case tried during the late war in which the proceedings were authenticated only by an officer designated as "assistant judge advocate," it was held by the reviewing authority that a sentence certified by such an officer could not be executed, and the proceedings were disapproved.³ But the rule under consideration does not preclude the

¹ This was expressly held by the Attorney General, in construing the Act in this connection. XIII Opins., 514; XIV Id., 13.

² The employment of counsel to assist in the prosecution of military cases was more frequently resorted to formerly than later or since the organization, in 1862, of a Judge Advocate General's Department in the Army. See De Hart, 318. In an early military case referred to in 2 Journals of Congress, 413, "two counsellors learned in the law" were appointed by Congress "to assist and co-operate with the judge advocate" at the trial. See, in this connection, a recent opinion of the At. Gen., of March 21, 1885.

³ 11 O. 20, Dept. of the N. West, 1863.

ailing of other officers to assist the judge advocate in an important case,¹ or the employment of legal counsel for the same purpose, since such assistants are not thus invested with any of the legal functions of judge advocates.

Personal Qualifications for the Appointment—1. *Fitness*.

As further apposite to the subject of the appointment of the judge advocate, it may here be noted that, as it is expressed in the act of 1802, heretofore cited, the judge advocate should be "fit person."² This officer has been styled by McArthur³ the *primum mobile*;⁴ by Adye⁴ "the mainspring of a court-martial." "If he errs," adds the latter writer, "all may go wrong;" or, as it is quaintly expressed by Napier,⁵ unless courts-martial have a properly instructed officer, "they must assemble in bodily fear." The question of fitness is of course a relative one. While an officer may readily make himself familiar with the routine of the prosecution of a brief and simple trial, a special training and a considerable share of expert knowledge are required properly to qualify a military man to exercise with skill and completeness the function of judge advocate in a case of real difficulty and importance. To be prepared to meet all the issues that may be raised, and duly to perform all the other duties that may be devolved upon him as judge advocate, in such a case, an officer should be educated not only in the science of the military law,—including the statutory law, regulations, orders, and customs, pertaining to the offences of military persons and their prosecution, trial and punishment,—but also in the general criminal law and its practice and procedure, as well as in that most essential branch of legal learning, the general law of evidence.⁶

1. On the trial, in 1865, of Payne, Herold and others, (as conspirators in the assassination of President Lincoln,) and upon that of Wirz in the same year, by military commission, the judge advocate was assisted in the former case by two officers, and in the latter by one, specially detailed for the purpose.

2. The same term is used in the present British law. Rules of Procedure, 99. (A.)

3. Vol. 2, p. 279.

4. Page 113.

5. Page 114.

6. On the subject of the qualifications of a judge advocate, compare Hughes, pp. 9-19, 178, *et seq.*

2. Absence of bias. As a judge advocate is not subject to challenge,¹ it is important that an officer strongly prejudiced for or against the accused, or who has a decided personal interest in the result of the trial, should not be selected as the judge advocate if it can be avoided. Thus, one interested in the conviction of an accused officer, for the reason that, in the event of a dismissal, he will become entitled to promotion, will not be a desirable person to be detailed as judge advocate for the trial, if any other suitable officer can be appointed without detriment to the service.² So it will be undesirable and in general indeed unseemly to detail as judge advocate a junior officer of the same staff corps as the accused, since such an officer can scarcely be exempt from partisanship in such a case. Where an officer appointed judge advocate is conscious of any such prepossession, bias, or interest as may materially affect the efficient or fair performance of his duty, he will properly communicate the facts in a respectful manner, to the appointing authority, for his consideration.³ But prejudice or interest, however conspicuous or controlling, on the part of the judge advocate cannot impair the *legal validity* of the proceedings.⁴

1. See Chapter XIV.

2. In G. C. M. O. 5, War Dept., 1871, in connection with the action of the President upon the case of a Captain of the army, it was remarked as follows:—"In his review of this case, the Judge Advocate General calls attention to the fact that the Judge Advocate of the Court was not only a material witness for the prosecution, but, as senior first Lieutenant in the same regiment with accused, was the expectant of promotion to the next vacancy in the grade of Captain. In view of this fact, while there is no ground for doubting that the officer charged with this duty performed it with honest and pure intention, yet certainly his selection for it was unsuitable, inasmuch as by military law and usage it has always been held that the Judge Advocate should be free from personal bias or interest in the result of the proceedings in which he officiates."

3. In G. C. M. O. 41 of 1875, in a case of a soldier tried upon charge of having made a false complaint that an officer had improperly assaulted him, which officer was judge advocate of the court and prosecuting witness, it was remarked as follows:—"It was not contemplated that a prisoner would be brought to trial before this Court on charges which raised the question whether its Judge Advocate had not himself been guilty of official misconduct. But such was the fact in this case. The Judge Advocate had a personal interest in the conviction of the prisoner, and was also the principal witness against him. Under such circumstances he should have applied to the proper authority to be relieved from duty as Judge Advocate. The proceedings are disapproved."

4. See DIGEST, 296.

II. HIS AUTHORITY AND DUTIES.

This subject will be considered under the heads of: The authority and duty of the judge advocate—(1,) Prior to the meeting of the court; (2,) Pending the proceedings and trial; and (3,) After the completion of the proceedings.

AUTHORITY AND DUTY OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE PRIOR TO THE MEETING OF THE COURT.

As to Preparing or Perfecting the Charges. While in the ordinary criminal procedure the indictment is almost invariably framed by the prosecuting attorney,—in the *military* service, where any officer may prefer charges, the judge advocate of the court has a comparatively limited control over the form of the charges and specifications. He has no *original* authority, *virtute officii*, to entertain charges in the first instance, but can simply act upon such as are transmitted to him to prosecute. In the absence, therefore, of general instructions or specific authority for the purpose from the superior by whom he has been appointed, he cannot, as a general rule, make any material amendments in the pleadings as committed to him.¹ In some instances indeed, where the court was convened for the trial of enlisted men for light or simple offences, the papers have been transmitted and witnesses referred to the judge advocate, with instructions to frame, serve, and prosecute formal charges in the several cases, as the proofs may appear to warrant.² But in general, and especially in the more important class of cases, the charges will, regularly, have been prepared by the immediate commander of the accused or the original accuser, and revised by the Commander who is to convene the court, or the officer of the Judge Advocate General's Department or Acting Judge Advocate on his staff, or by the Judge Advocate General, before

1. DIGEST, 298; O'Brien, 235; G. C. M. O. 42, Dept. of the Platte, 1877; Do. 7, Dept. of Texas, 1882; Do. 9, Dept. of Arizona, 1884.

2. This was sometimes done during the late war, but, as a practice, belongs rather to the past, and to the period before department, &c., commands were furnished with staff judge advocates. In some of the *Field Orders* the judge advocate was specifically directed to prepare the charges after conference with the original accuser, who had not duly formulated the same. See instances in G. O. of Aug. 10, 1819, and Sept. 7, 1820.

they reach the judge advocate of the court. In such cases, while the judge advocate may correct obvious errors of form and mistakes in names, dates, amounts, &c., known to him, from having communicated with the witnesses or otherwise, to be incorrect, he cannot properly venture upon material amendments of substance, and certainly cannot assume of his own authority to reject any charge or specification, or to add a new one.¹ Where indeed the judge advocate of the court is an officer in whom a special confidence is reposed, as where he is the Judge Advocate or Acting Judge Advocate of the Department, &c., he may assume a larger discretion in the matter of amending the charges before trial, especially where he has already had to do with their preparation or revision. But in general, in the absence of some special authority or direction from the convening commander, the charges should remain substantially intact in the hands of the judge advocate, who should consider himself simply as a subordinate under orders to perform a particular duty, *viz.* to prosecute the particular charges committed to him by his superior. Where, from the testimony as personally examined by him, he is of opinion that a charge should be laid under a different Article from that selected, or that an additional charge or specification should be preferred, or other material change in the pleadings should be made, it will be proper for him to communicate the facts and his views to the Commander by whom he has been detailed, and await his instructions.³

As to Serving the Charges, &c. The subject of the service of charges has already been considered in treating of the Charge.

1. See G. O. 25, 36, Dept. of the Mo., 1867; Do. 11, Dept. of the Gulf, 1865; Do. 64, Dept. of Ark., 1865; Do. 17, Dept. of Fla., 1866; Do. 26, 29, Dept. of La., 1868; Do. 35, Fifth Mil. Dist., 1868. A large authority, however, is attributed to the judge advocate in some of these Orders than would be quite warranted in time of peace.

2. DIGEST, 298; G. O. 3, Div. Atlantic, 1876. That he cannot do this even with the concurrence of the court is remarked in G. C. M. O. 36, Dept. of the Platte, 1877.

3. "It is a part of the duty of an officiating judge advocate to represent to the officer convening the court any error or omission in the charges and thereby to anticipate or obviate any delay in the assembly of the court." Simmons § 414. And see De Hart, 313; G. O. 30, Dept. of the Mo., 1867. It is a part of his duty not to go to trial upon a defective indictment, (G. O. 11, Dept. of the Gulf, 1865; Do. 29, Dept. of La., 1868,) if the defect can be duly corrected.

The service of the charges is a duty usually devolving upon the judge advocate, and should be performed as soon as practicable after the charges have been perfected, or within a reasonable time before the trial. A list of the witnesses for the prosecution will properly accompany the charges. The accused will also properly be supplied with a copy of the Order detailing the court, so that he may have a reasonable opportunity to consider whether he will interpose challenges to any of the members. Where the Order does not specify the time or place of the particular trial, the judge advocate should notify the accused of the same. He should also promptly furnish him with copies of amended or "additional" charges or specifications, if any such are introduced.

As to Summoning, &c., the Witnesses. It is directed by par. 889 of the Army Regulations that the judge advocate "summon the necessary witnesses for the trial;" and, in order that the trial may not be delayed, it is in general his duty at this stage of the proceedings to summon the material witnesses, both those required for the prosecution¹ and those whose names are furnished him by the accused.² Where any witnesses are so distant, or otherwise situated or occupied, that their personal attendance cannot probably be procured without extraordinary expense, or embarrassment to the service, he will properly submit to the convening authority the question whether they shall be summoned to appear in person or required to give their depositions. If directed to procure their depositions, he will proceed to do so by preparing in concert with the accused the necessary interrogatories and forwarding the same through the proper channels, subject to the provisions of the 91st Article of War.³ Where not satisfied as to the materiality of a proposed

1. That it is, in general, the duty of the judge advocate, though it may not always be necessary, to summon, (and call to testify on the trial,) the witnesses *whose names have been appended to the charges*—see G. C. O. 135, Dept. of Dakota, 1882; Do. 45, Id., 1884.

2. No persons, (except perhaps foreign ministers—see Wilkes' Trial, 79,) can be said to be legally exempt from being summoned as witnesses on military trials. High public officials, however, will not properly be summoned where their attendance can be dispensed with without serious prejudice to the administration of justice.

3. As to the law in regard to depositions in military cases, and their form, see Chapter XVIII, and Appendix.

The time and expense of summoning a particular witness or witnesses

witness, or where the testimony of such a witness will be merely cumulative, he may omit or decline to summon him till requested or instructed to do so by the court or the commander.¹ Where the accused desires the attendance of a witness whom the judge advocate does not think it worth while to summon, he may well offer to *admit* in writing at the trial that the person, if present, would testify thus and so. A form of subpoena for witnesses, to be issued by the judge advocate, is given in the Appendix.

Service of summons. If the witness is at or near the place of trial, or station of the judge advocate, he may be personally summoned by the latter, or by any other officer or individual for him.² If he is at a greater distance, a subpoena, or application for his attendance, should generally be forwarded by the judge advocate "through the regular military channels,"³ to the proper headquarters, in order that the proper orders may be made for his attendance, transportation, &c. The judge advocate should always cause a *civilian* witness to be *personally served*: this to facilitate the compelling of his attendance by attachment under Sec. 1202, Rev. Sts., if found necessary. A personal service will be made either by exhibiting to the witness the original subpoena and causing or enabling him to become informed of its contents, or—and preferably—by delivering to him a copy. The individual making the personal service will properly be instructed by the judge advocate to certify the fact, date and place of service on the back of the original⁴ and thereupon return the same to him. Witnesses, on arriving at the place of trial, should report forthwith to the judge advocate.

Certificates of attendance—Witness fees. It may be noted here that it is part of the duty of the judge advocate to

may sometimes be saved by the judge advocate and accused entering into a written *stipulation* that certain specified facts shall be considered as admitted in the case. See example in Lieut. Devlin's Case. *Prize Final*, p. 12.

1. See par. 880, A. R.

2. In order to avoid possible expense, a military person should, if practicable, be employed to make the service. G. O. 34, Dept. of War, Platte, 1870.

3. See par. 802, A. R.

4. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 315, note.

5. See form in Appendix.

ve certificates of attendance to the civilian witnesses, including ch as may have attended to testify by deposition, in order that ey may receive their legal allowances for attendance and travel.¹ he law does not authorize the payment of witness fees *in advance* in military cases.

As to Preparing the Case for Trial. The further duty is evolved upon the judge advocate of assuring himself, before oing to trial, that the proper evidence is available, and is sufficient to establish the charge.² In several instances, judge advocates have been severely censured in General Orders for proceeding with the prosecution without duly preparing their cases, or forming themselves whether the witnesses proposed to be lled could establish the facts alleged in the specifications.³ If, ter personally examining the witnesses, &c., a judge advocate ncludes that he cannot make out a *prima facie* case upon the arges referred to him for prosecution, he should, if there is ne, communicate the fact to the convening authority and ask tructions.

A judge advocate entrusted with the conduct of an important osecution will also, before the trial, look carefully into such ints of law—especially questions in the law of evidence—as e likely to arise in the case, and prepare himself by study for esenting or contesting the same.

As to other Particulars. It devolves upon the judge advocate to make a requisition upon the quartermaster for the oper stationery for his own use and that of the court at the trial

1. See par. 1433, Army Regs. The allowances of witnesses are fixed pars. 1427, 1428 and 1435, Id., as amended by G. O. 4, 136, of 1882, d Do. 25, 26, of 1884.

2. See the remarks of the reviewing officers in G. O. 63, Dept. of the st, 1864 ; Do. 36, Dept. of the Mo., 1867. Tytler, (p. 358,) writes :—The judge advocate must instruct himself in all the circumstances of e case, and by what evidence the whole particulars are to be proved ainst the prisoner. Of these it is proper that he should prepare in iting a short analysis or plan for his own regulation in the conduct of e trial and examination of the witnesses." This last suggestion is eated by subsequent writers.

3. See G. O. 23 of 1824, where the President censures a judge advocate for not producing the proper witnesses, who were apparently readily ilable, to prove the charge ; also G. O. 71, Dept. of Ark., 1865, and lers above cited in which the preferring of charges without proper stigitation is reflected upon.

or trials to be had, as also for a room or rooms, or other quarters in which to assemble, (with the necessary furniture, fuel, &c.,) if such have not already been provided. At most established posts, such a room is set apart. He will also properly apply to the assistant adjutant general, post adjutant, &c., for an *orderly* or *orderlies*, as may be required. If he does not exercise his statutory authority of appointing a *reporter*,¹ (or, in a case of unusual importance, though a reporter be actually appointed,) he may employ, with the concurrence of the court, a civilian *clerk*, or may apply to the proper official for an enlisted man to be ordered to report to him for duty as clerk. If an *interpreter* is necessary, he will take measures to obtain one—generally by summoning as a witness a person competent for the purpose.²

Where the charges or specifications are unusually numerous or extended, the judge advocate may well have the same *printed*, if practicable, for the convenience of the court upon its assembling and for reference during the trial, as also to facilitate the making up of the record.

AUTHORITY AND DUTY OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE PENDING THE PROCEEDINGS AND TRIAL.

This Capacity in General. "The presence and assistance of an officiating judge advocate," observes Simmons,³ "is essential to the jurisdiction of a court-martial." O'Brien⁴ writes "A court-martial cannot proceed to any business without the officer." Neither is strictly accurate. But while it is not necessary, (though certainly highly desirable and almost invariable,) that the judge advocate should be present at such preliminary action as a court may take after its first assembling and prior to the appearance of the accused, it is clear that the court cannot enter upon the *trial* without him, since, by Art. 84, he must first qualify them by administering "to each member" the prescribed oath. So, pending the trial, his presence, though may not always be essential, cannot properly be dispensed with during any material proceeding.⁵

1. As to the exercise of this authority, see *post*.

2. As to clerks, interpreters, orderlies, &c., see Chapter XI.

3. § 462.

4. Page 229.

5. A judge advocate may indeed temporarily absent himself and

was observed by Kennedy,¹ (who has here been repeated by writers,) that a judge advocate "appears at a court-martial under three distinct characters," those of Prosecutor, Adviser to the court, and Recorder; in the last of which only, the author adds, he is subject to the direction or control of the court; being authorized in the other two "to act according to his own judgment and discretion."

With these principal capacities of the judge advocate are also considered, as attaching at this stage to his office under the law, his province as counsel or adviser of the accused, and his authority and duty under Art. 85 and under Secs. 1202 and 1203, Rev. Sts.

§ Prosecutor—Legal status in general. From an early period in the British law till 1860, the judge advocate acted as prosecutor in the name of the Sovereign before general courts-martial.² But that he should sustain this character, while at the same time acting as official adviser to the court, was viewed by some of the authorities³ as unjust to the accused and inexpedient, in 1860 it was expressly prescribed in one of the Articles of War that he "should no longer be the prosecutor."⁴ A provision of the same effect is contained in the present Army Act.⁵ "The duties of prosecutor," says Clode,⁶ "since the judge advocate has been deposed from it, has not been assigned to any other official." In the British practice, the acting prosecutor is now either the senior's commanding officer, or an officer specially detailed for the purpose.⁷

In our law the judge advocate has from the beginning acted as

his place without affecting the validity of the proceedings; (Clode, *supra*, 126; Benét, 86;) though this 'mars their unity,' (Coppée, 60,) where necessitated for any longer than a very brief period, should require a suspension of the proceedings, for the time, by the court. ST, 300-1.

Page 222. As to the change, later, in regard to the capacity of prosecutor in the British law, see *post*.

Tytler, 206, 349; Adye, 115, 119-120; Samuel, 619; Clode, M. L., 126.

Napier, 113; Warren, 10, 229, 232-3, 253.

See Simmons § 472; Clode, M. L., 125.

§ 50. (3.)

M. L. 126.

Simmons § 472; Queen's Regs., Sec. VI § 83.

the public prosecutor in military cases. In the articles of 1775 it was enacted that the officer officiating as judge advocate should "prosecute in the name of the United States of America," a provision to the same effect has been repeated in the code of the present time. No such agency as a "private prosecutor" known to our law. In practice, the accuser or "prosecution witness" is often allowed to remain in court, to enable the judge advocate to confer with him during the trial, but the law does not recognize him as having any official part in the prosecution of the charges.

As sole prosecutor, the judge advocate, with us, practically conducts the trial—a function which in the British,* and more conspicuously in the French³ law, is substantially devolved upon the president. In the American law, the judge advocate arraigns the prisoner; swears and examines the witnesses and cross-examines those of the defence; takes exceptions to pleas or testimony offered on the part of the accused or to applications or propositions made by or for him to the court which he deems inadmissible or objectionable; enters into such stipulations and makes such admissions in regard to testimony, &c., as he may deem expedient;⁴ and argues all exceptions taken and issues raised in the name and as the representative of the United States. Unlike the prosecuting attorney in the ordinary criminal courts, he presents, (or may present,) the closing argument on behalf of the Government.⁵

1. No judge advocate was provided for in the original code of 1775.

2. See Simmons § 430; 2 Clode, M. F., 364, note.

3. See Alla, 216–221, 257–269. At the French *conseils de guerre* the examination of the witnesses is in general conducted by the president. In important cases, (as at Marshal Bazaine's trial,) the court for the accused has been allowed, by courtesy, to add questions.

4. In a case in which the court instructed the judge advocate to inform the accused that if admitted all he proposed to prove by a certain witness, this action was disapproved as beyond the province of the court; the judge advocate, not the court, being the prosecutor. G. M. O. 59, Dept. of the Platte, 1872. So, as illustrating the general subject, may be noticed here the remark of the reviewing authority G. C. M. O. 55, Dept. of the Mo., 1873, that 'the court had no authority to instruct the judge advocate whether a certain case should be prosecuted or not, the prosecution being a duty devolving solely upon the judge advocate for which he is answerable to the convening command.'

5. He may make an argument whether the accused does or not. G. C. M. O. 11 of 1872. Or he may decline argument; as did the judge advocate, (Judge Advocate General Holt,) on Gen. F. J. Porter's trial.

Direction as to the course and conduct of the prosecution. As prosecutor, the judge advocate, representing as does the State, and acting under an authority identical with or equal to that of the court, should, as a general rule, be regarded as independent of the court,¹ and therefore as empowered, in the absence of special instructions on the subject from the convening officer, to conduct the prosecution in such mode or upon such plan as may appear to himself most advantageous. Even in the British practice, as it is observed by Simmons,² he "is usually permitted to adduce his evidence in the order he may think fit." And in our service where he is designated prosecutor by express statute, he should in general be deemed entitled to the same privilege which is uniformly accorded to prosecuting attorneys in the criminal courts, of presenting the evidence in support of the charge as he may judge to be most suitable or desirable and of presenting it in the form which he may consider most effective, of reserving such testimony for the recital as he may regard not so pertinent to the direct examination, and of preserving throughout the logical sequence determined upon by him, in preparing the case, as according with the progressive stages of the history of the offence.³ But while thus entitled in general to be left free in the presentation of his proofs, it is of course incumbent upon the judge advocate, as prosecutor, "to lay before the court the full particulars" of the offences charged. The court is sworn to "try and determine" the matter before them, and it cannot do so unless it is in possession of all the facts. Thus the court may properly intimate to an inexperienced or careless judge advocate that

he expressed reason that the exigencies of the existing war did not justify his taking up the requisite time. Printed Trial, p. 218.

See Kennedy, 222; Hughes, 111.

§ 571.

In the leading naval case of Capt. Barron, (Printed Trial, 131-2,) the court made a general ruling as follows:—"The order in which the testimony on the part of the prosecution, either verbal or written, shall be presented before the court is a subject resting altogether in the discretion * * * of the judge advocate. The court will exercise no control over it, but will hear everything which they ought to hear, and in any order in which it may be thought proper to exhibit it." And see later to a similar effect in G. C. M. O. 97, Dept. of Dakota, 1878; Do. Dept. of Texas, 1878; and compare, as to the civil practice, 1 Burr's 85, 469; Davany v. Coon, 45 Miss. 71.

Hughes, 118.

he has omitted to prove a material allegation in a specification or to evoke a material circumstance from a witness before the court, or to introduce a material witness whom it desires to have called. On the other hand it may check an over-zealous judge advocate who is proving too much by needlessly putting in cumulative testimony or otherwise unreasonably protracting the investigation. This privilege, however, is one to be cautiously exercised.

Authority as to entry of *nolle prosequi*. It is clear that this authority, that is to say the authority to withdraw a particular charge or specification from the consideration of the court, cannot belong to the judge advocate as prosecutor, his duty as such being simply to prosecute the charges committed to him without addition or subtraction. Of his own motion, and in the absence of authority from the commander, (for the court cannot supply it,) he can no more withdraw a charge after arraignment than he can drop one before: should he venture unauthorised to do so, he would be guilty of a military offence. If he is of opinion that a charge or specification should be *nol prossed*, and no authority for the purpose has been imparted in advance, he should apply for the same to headquarters, the court, (if concurring,) meanwhile adjourning over if necessary.²

Duty as a minister of justice. It was remarked by the judge in a late case in the Central Criminal Court of London, that it is "a general principle of criminal procedure that counsel for the prosecution should consider themselves not merely advocates but as ministers of justice, and not as struggling for a verdict but as assistants in the ascertainment of truth according to law." Similarly, in a recent criminal case in Michigan,³ the

1. "After charges have been properly referred to a court for trial none save the convening authority, or the Secretary of War, can order *nolle prosequi* to be entered." G. O. 98, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1861 (Gen. Thomas.) And see Do. 97, Dept. of No. Ca., 1865; Do. 83, Dept. of the South, 1874; G. C. M. O. 79, Dept. of the Platte, 1877; Do. 13, Id., 1878; Do. 45, 48, Div. Pacific and Dept. of Cal., 1883 DIGEST, 298, 345.

The subject of *Nolle Prosequi*, as an incident of the Procedure, considered in Chapter XV.

2. G. C. M. O. 14, Dept. of Cal., 1883.

3. *Regina v. Berens*, 4 F. & F., 842.

4. *Wellar v. People*, 30 Mich. 23.

It observe:—"A public prosecutor is not a plaintiff's attorney, but a sworn minister of justice, as much bound to protect the innocent as to pursue the guilty." So, O'Brien¹ says of the judge advocate:—"He is to use no undue means to secure the conviction rather than the acquittal of the accused." In other words, while he is not "to permit the interests of the public to suffer,"² by failing to prosecute "with spirit and resolution,"³ it is to remember that it is not incompatible but consonant with his capacity as prosecutor to be so far impartial as not only not to obstruct but to facilitate the accused in making such defence offering such matter of extenuation as may exist in the case.⁴ It is in view of this principle that it has been held by certain courts, both in England and the United States,⁵ that the prosecuting officer, in presenting his case, is not at liberty to select those witnesses only whose testimony will conduce to a conviction, leaving the accused to offer the rest, but that it is incumbent upon him to introduce all the witnesses present at the commission of the act charged or cognizant of the same, if attainable, before the accused is called upon for his defence. Thus it is held in one case:⁶—"All the facts constituting the *res gestæ*, so far as the prosecuting counsel is informed of and has the means of proving them, should, on principle and in fairness to the prisoner, be laid before the jury by the prosecution." And in a later case⁷ it is remarked:—"The only legitimate object of the prosecution is to show the whole transaction as it was, whether its tendency is to establish guilt or innocence. The prosecuting officer represents the public interest which can never be promoted by the conviction of the innocent. His object, like that of the court, should be simply justice, and he has no right to sacrifice

¹ Page 284.

² De Hart, 323.

³ Adye, 119.

⁴ See De Hart, 323. "The danger in most cases is that, as prosecutor, he is inclined to be too severe upon the accused, to accept his guilt as a foregone conclusion, and rather to aim to prove it than simply, as is his sole duty, to exhaust all the evidence *pro* and *con*, and then to determine the guilt or innocence of the accused." Coppée, 60.

⁵ Regina v. Holden, 8 C. & P. 606; Regina v. Stroner, 1 C. & K. 1; Maher v. People, 10 Mich. 225-6; Hurd v. People, 25 Mich. 416; Illar v. People, 30 Mich. 16.

Maher v. People, *ante*.

Hurd v. People, *ante*.

this to any pride of professional success." In the opinion of the author, this rule, though not followed by some other authorities who regard it as properly within the discretion of the prosecuting officer to produce such witnesses and such only as he thinks best,¹ is believed especially to commend itself to adoption in the court-martial practice, and particularly in cases of enlisted men, and of officers undefended by competent counsel.²

The principle here presented will be further illustrated when we come to consider the subject of the relation of the judge advocate to the accused.

As Adviser to the Court, and in his Relation to the Same—His duty in general. As already noticed, one of the three principal functions assigned to the judge advocate of a court-martial is that of "adviser to the court in matters of fact and law."³ In this capacity a twofold duty is devolved upon this officer:

1. He is bound to *furnish his opinion* on any question of law, practice, or procedure, arising in the course of the trial, when the same is required of him by the court.⁴ It is the right of the court to call upon him for such advice and assistance, but if the preparation of the opinion demands unusual labor, the court will properly adjourn to give him time to consult the authorities, &c. In general the opinion of a competent judge advocate, thus furnished, will be accepted as decisive by the court.⁵ But even if wholly dissented from and in no respect followed, the judge advocate is entitled, for his own justification, and not by way of protest but as a part of the proceedings, to have such opinion incorporated in the written record: it should also be so recorded for the information of the reviewing authority.⁶

¹ See 1 Bishop, C. P. § 300, n.

² See remarks of Lord Brougham in Parliament, as cited by Clode, M. L. 103.

³ Kennedy, 222.

⁴ See Feltz, 352-355; Simmons § 486; Kennedy, 224-5; Scott, 114; Hughes, 127; Hickman, 137; XIV Law Mag., 13; Malby, 110; O'Brien, 183; De Hart, 325; Benét, 201; Coppée, 57.

⁵ See Simmons § 486; Kennedy, 228; Hughes, 127. Note the special exception made to the advice and opinion of the judge advocate in the Rules of the Rules of Procedure, § 101 (F.) providing, to the same effect, the provision that—"at a court-martial the judge advocate shall be heard."

⁶ See, e. g., Clode, 103; Kennedy, 226-7; XIV Law

While it will be irregular for the judge advocate, except in his opinion is thus asked, to interpose his views in regard any question which it is within the province and discretion of the court to determine, yet if the action proposed by it to be taken upon such a question will clearly transcend some statute, regulation, order or usage, or an established principle of law, it shall then be his *duty to point out the fact*. In other words, where an error of the court is simply one of judgment, the judge advocate, though, in his opinion, such error may work injustice in the case, should remain silent: otherwise where the action, if taken, will manifestly contravene an article of war or other law of the service, or legal principle properly governing the procedure of courts-martial,—here he is authorized, and it is indeed his duty, to respectfully *caution* the court against the apprehended illegality.¹

When the court is closed for deliberation. What has just been said has particular reference to proceedings upon the trial in open court. It is applicable, however, (except as to the ordering of opinions,) to the stage of the session succeeding the closing of the court for deliberation upon its judgment. Here indeed, his function being ministerial, the judge advocate should, if the authorities concur in holding, especially refrain from voluntarily expressing or intimating any opinion, or attempting to influence any vote, upon the question of guilt or that of punishment. He will thus in general confine himself to the collecting the votes and the recording of the conclusions of the court, remaining otherwise quite silent. But here also the court may require his views upon any proposed action; and here too if any irregularity or material irregularity is committed,—as if a finding made which is not apposite to the charge, or does not express the real intent of the court, or is defective in its form; or a sen-

§. 14; Hughes, 123-128; Maltby, 122; O'Brien, 283; De Hart, 325-6. *Contra*, Simmons § 496 and note. In G. O. 5 of 1857, the Secretary of War remarks:—"The court refused to admit on their part an argument of the judge advocate, objecting to an application for a defence for delay. It was the duty of the judge advocate to state the objection, and the argument by which he sustained it was very proper. It was a part of the proceedings which ought to have been recorded on the record." And see G. O. 17, Dept. of Florida, 1866; 50, Dept. of La., 1869.

See Benét, 201; O'Brien, 283; De Hart, 325.

tence is voted which is ambiguous in its terms, or is not authorized by the article of war upon which the charge is based, or imposes a punishment not sanctioned by military usage,—it will be no more than his duty to suggest the error, in order that the same may be corrected before the record is completed.¹ But inasmuch as the accused is not entitled to be present or to be heard at this stage of the proceedings, the judge advocate, in what he has here to say, will of course guard against making any statement or giving any advice that may tend to prejudice the rights of the accused.²

That the judge advocate indeed is permitted, or rather required by usage, to remain with the court during its deliberation while the accused is excluded,³ is the feature of the proceedings of a military trial which is most open to criticism.⁴ Its unfairness exists more in appearance than in fact. But it is a feature the strict justice of which is certainly subject to question, and in view of such question the judge advocate, when alone with the court, should be all the more scrupulous to divest himself not only of the office but of the *animus* of prosecutor.

As to preserving the votes of the members. The point was at one time considerably discussed, whether the judge advocate should preserve the written votes of the members given upon the findings or sentence. The only reason for preserving them would seem to be that, in their absence, the judge advocate, (or a member,) would not be enabled or would be less able

1. See, generally, upon this subject Simmons § 612, 636; Kennedy, 229, 230; Stocqueler, 113; Hickman, 137; Bombay, R., 31; Macomb, 58; De Hart, 327-8; O'Brien, 283, 284; Benét, 201-2; Coppée, 60.

2. See O'Brien, 284.

3. The leading case in which this principle was asserted was that of Capt. Amos Binney, reported in "The Militia Reporter," p. 180, (1810). Here, upon the court clearing to consider an objection to evidence, the accused claimed that he had a right to remain and be heard equally with the judge advocate. The court ruled that he must retire in accordance with the established practice, and because, if they allowed him to remain, they might violate their oaths in regard to the disclosure of the votes and opinions of members. They also ruled that they could not exclude the judge advocate for the reason that it was the custom that such officer should be present at deliberations, and that the Article which required him to be sworn not to divulge any vote or opinion, & evidently contemplated that he should be present.

4. See Warren, 229, 232, 233, 254; also Report of Judiciary Committee of Senate, No. 1337, of Feb. 18, 1885.

testify as to the same if called upon to do so by a "court of justice"—the contingency indicated in Arts. 84 and 85.¹ But these Articles do not *require* that he should hold himself prepared to give such evidence. Moreover the written votes are no part of the official record or papers, but mere personal memoranda. Further if they are preserved, they may endanger the discovery, by unauthorized persons, of the votes or opinions which the judge advocate and members also have sworn not to make public.² The question involved is really one which concerns less the judge advocate than the members, since the latter may, under certain circumstances, become amenable to a civil suit for damages for their action upon the court. The best sense on the subject would thus seem to be that the judge advocate should consult the wishes of the court as to the preserving by him of the paper votes, and keep or destroy them as the court may prefer. To destroy them is believed to be now the almost uniform practice in our service.³

The personal relations of court and judge advocate.

In this connection the personal relation proper and desirable to be maintained between the judge advocate and the court may well be touched upon. It is clear, as indicated by De Hart,⁴ that such acts on the part of the judge advocate as the expressing of opinions where the same are not requested or warranted, the raising of points as to unimportant matters, and the interposing of petty objections to testimony, can only bore and worry an assemblage of military men, and incline them to override the judge advocate in the positions taken by him.

On the other hand, within his separate province, the judge advocate is entitled to be recognized by the court as occupying a position as independent as its own, and, wherever a proper and

1. 1 McArthur, 323; Tytler, (edit. of 1800,) 371.

2. See Simmons § 614; Kennedy, 237; Tytler, xiii (Opinion of A. Gen., Sir Chas. Morgan;); Stocqueler, 114; Griffiths, 176; Benét, 7.

3. See this subject also considered in Chapter XIX on the Finding. A further office sometimes performed by the judge advocate, though not deemed to be strictly within his duties, may be noted here—that of *fixing* members of the day for reassembling where the court has adjourned subject to the call of the president. See Circ., No. 4, of 1855.

4. Page 328. And see Coppée, 60.

adequate occasion presents itself, is authorized not only ^{fully} to express but to accentuate his views, even at the risk of ~~offending~~ some member or members who may entertain opposite ^{opinions}. But where the judge advocate is a person uniting tact with ~~skill~~ he will rarely find it necessary to assert himself as against the court. The latter perceiving him to be master of his case, and not dogmatic but simple and dignified in his manner of presenting it, will come to respect his opinions, and to consult and follow him as a legal adviser. Thus a mutual deference and confidence will arise, which will not only do away with much of the irritation incident to the collisions of an extended trial, but will result in a harmonious and effective dispatch of business.

Amenability of judge advocate for misconduct before the court. It need hardly be added that while the judge advocate cannot of course be placed in arrest by the court or president,¹ he may be made amenable, under the 62d or other appropriate article, for any marked disrespect or disorderly behaviour in its presence, upon a representation made by it of the facts, or formal charges preferred, to the proper superior. So for disturbing the proceedings as indicated in Art. 86, he may become punishable as for a contempt. The author, however, not aware of any precedent in our service of a conviction by court martial of an officer for misconduct of this character in the capacity of a judge advocate.²

As Counsel or Adviser of, and in his Relation to the Accused—Particulars already considered. Under the head of the province of the judge advocate prior to the trial we have noted the duties, devolving upon him at that stage, serving (and explaining where necessary) the charges, furnishing a copy of the convening order, giving notice of time and place of trial, summoning witnesses for the defence, &c. We have now to inquire how far the judge advocate is called upon to counsel and assist the accused pending the trial or in connection therewith, and, generally, as to his official relation to the accused.

Effect of Art. 90. This Article declares that the judge advocate, "*when the prisoner has made his plea, shall so far as*

1. Chapter XII. And see McNaghten, 170-1; DIGEST, 301.

2. But see British precedents referred to by Hough, (P.) 704; and case of Major Browne reported in James, 504.

himself counsel for the prisoner as to object to any leading question to any of the witnesses, and to any question to the prisoner the answer to which might tend to criminate himself." This is a most imperfect and ineffective provision; objecting to leading questions is but a single feature of the function of counsel, and, as to questions "to the prisoner," these are unknown to our practice.* This provision, (derived from the Articles of War,) illustrates the fact that the entire Article is in the main obsolete and futile, and might well, as already indicated, be stricken from the code.*

Nature and extent of his function as counsel, &c. It is clear that the judge advocate cannot act in a *personal* capacity as counsel to the accused, since such a character would be incompatible with that of public prosecutor. Thus it is clearly only an *official* relation that he can advise or assist the accused. We have already seen that a judge advocate is bound to consider himself not merely as a prosecutor but as a "minister of justice;" the common law doctrine being that the prosecuting official in a criminal proceeding was "the assistant of the court in the exercise of justice."³ This doctrine is applied to the military judge by Simmons,⁴ in holding that it is "in consonance with the custom of the service that the judge advocate should

Except indeed in a case—of course not contemplated by this Article—where, under the recent Act of March 16, 1878, the accused goes to stand as a *witness* in his own behalf, when he is examined and cross-examined like any other witness.

The declaration that—"The judge advocate shall prosecute in the name of the United States," is the only provision that is of any significance.

This part of the Article might well be incorporated with Article 15, the remaining portion being dropped from the code.

Regina v. Thursfield, 8 C. & P. 269. And see *Regina v. Berens*, 12 C. & P. 842. The origin of this doctrine is the maxim or rather fiction of the common law that on an indictment for treason or felony, as the prisoner was not entitled to defend by counsel, the judge acted as his counsel. 4 Black. Com., 355; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 296; 2 McArthur, 41.

§ 468. "In his duty toward the prisoner, indeed, he is not obliged to go farther than the court itself: the court sits for the purpose of administering justice, and is bound to take care that the prisoner does not suffer from his ignorance, inexperience, or incapacity." Pipon & Col., 40. See XIV Law Mag., 13; Macomb, 81; Benét, 196. Lord Brougham, in debate in Parliament, described the judge advocate as: "the assessor of the court—standing between the prisoner and the court." Clode, M. 5.

only interfere to the extent to which the court itself is bound to interpose." In our practice, however, no strict rule has been prescribed or observed on this subject; and how far the judge advocate shall properly counsel and assist the accused is left to depend in the first instance on whether he is furnished with competent personal counsel, and secondly on his own intelligence and ability to defend himself. Where he is without counsel and especially where he is an ignorant or inexperienced soldier the judge advocate will properly render him, both in and out of court,¹ such assistance as may be compatible with his primary duty of efficiently conducting the prosecution.² In addition to aiding him before the trial in collecting his proofs and preparing his defence if he has one,—(and he will especially guard against even suggesting his pleading *guilty* if the case has any merits whatever,³)—he will properly assist him in presenting in proper form such challenges as he may desire to urge,⁴ in offering

1. The distinction taken by Kennedy, (p. 235,) and repeated by some of our writers, (O'Brien, 285; De Hart, 309; Benét, 196,) that a judge advocate may more properly or fully assist an accused *out of the court*, has no place in our law and is not regarded in practice. At whatever stage or stages the judge advocate will best or most properly advise, the assistance the accused will depend upon the circumstances of each case.

The doctrine, as stated by Simmons, (§ 468, and see Pipon & Co.,) may be noted here—that the accused has a "*right to the opinion of the judge advocate, either in or out of court, on any given question of law arising out of the proceedings.*" This rule, (repeated by Deland, p. 312,) is now declared in the Rules of Procedure, 101 (A.), as follows:—"The prosecutor and the prisoner respectively are, at all times after the judge advocate is named to act on the court, entitled to his opinion on any question of law relative to the charge or trial, whether he is in or out of court, subject when he is in court to the permission of the court." But this doctrine too has no place in our law, where the judge advocate differs from the same official in the British practice in being the prosecutor and in not representing the Judge Advocate General. With us he furnishes no opinions except when requested to do so by the court. The court indeed may ask his opinion at the instance of the accused. But official opinions *out of court* are unknown in our practice.

2. See Tytler, 355; Stocqueler, 113; Macomb, 80; Coppée, 20; Circular, 45, Third Mil. Dist., 1868; Queen's Regulations, Sec. VI § 84. The judge advocate should not, "in his zeal as prosecutor," be induced to "overlook the interests of the prisoner." G. C. M. O. 3, Dept. of Arizona, 1883. (Gen Crook.)

3. "For the judge advocate to counsel the accused, when a superior or inferior in rank, to plead guilty, must in general be unbecomingly inadvisable." DIGEST, 299. And see G. O. 45, Third Mil. Dist., 1868.

4. See G. C. M. O. 19, Dept. of the Columbia, 1882.

lea or pleas general or special, and in bringing out the full testimony for the defence on the trial¹ as well as such circumstances of extenuation as may exist in the case.² It is in omitting to bring out in evidence existing matters of defence or extenuation, that judge advocates are most liable to fail in furthering complete justice in military cases. Though the defences and excuses set up by enlisted men in their statements to the court, especially in connection with pleas of guilty, are not unfrequently fabrications, they are by no means always so; and where there is no sufficient reason to doubt the good faith of the accused, the representations made in his statement, if not already sufficiently tested by evidence on the trial, may and in justice should be investigated, so far as the circumstances and exigencies of the service will reasonably permit. That it is incumbent on the judge advocate, (as well as on the court,) where the statement of the accused is inconsistent with his plea of guilty, and, in asserting facts constituting a substantial defence, indicates that the plea has been ignorantly made, to assist him to establish such facts in evidence before the case is finally closed,—has been repeatedly urged by the Judge Advocate General,³ and by reviewing officers in General Orders.⁴

The relation of the judge advocate to the accused makes it further proper that, where the latter is unskilled or ignorant, the former should assist him in the preparation of his concluding

1. In G. O. 42, Dept. of the Platte, 1871, it was remarked that the judge advocate, where the accused was without counsel, might properly make exception in behalf of the latter to a legally objectionable question put to a witness by a member of the court.

2. DIGEST, 299; G. O. 45, Third Mil. Dist., 1868.

3. DIGEST, 375-378. A view similar to that expressed in the text is contained in the Bombay R., p. 53.

4. See the following G. O. or G. C. M. O., in which the views on this subject of the Judge Advocate General are concurred in, or similar views are advanced, by military commanders: G. C. M. O. 2 of 1872; Do. 31 of 1876; Do. 34, Northern Dept., 1865; Do. 46, Dept. of the South, 1868; Do. 7, Id., 1869; Do. 28, Dept. of the Platte, 1869; Do. 39, Id., 1870; Do. 24, 68, Id., 1871; G. O. 31, Dept. of Cal., 1872; Do. 35, Id., 1874; Do. 98, Dept. of the East, 1872; Do. 14, 43, 68, Id., 1873; Do. 81, 83, 98, Dept. of Dakota, 1873; Do. 8, Id., 1876; Do. 19, 33, 38, Dept. of Texas, 1873; Do. 11, 16, 18, Id., 1874; Do. 45, Id., 1875; Do. 5, 74, Dept. of the Mo., 1875; Do. 61, Id., 1876; Do. 49, Div. Atlantic, 1874; Do. 23, Id., 1875; Circ. Dept. of the Gulf, Oct. 12, 1863.

statement or address, reading it also for him to the court if desired.¹

It is to be added, however, in this connection that where the accused is provided with capable counsel, or, being an officer or person of unusual intelligence, is fully competent to conduct his own defence, the relation of the judge advocate toward him is so far modified that the former may be required, in the interests of justice, to assume a controversial if not an aggressive attitude. It will then indeed be his duty to resist the introduction by the accused of objectionable testimony, to contest any inadmissible special pleas or unreasonable motions made by him, and generally, while courteous in his treatment of him and strictly fair and considerate of his rights, to maintain with the zeal and energy of a champion the cause of the United States.

As Recorder—In general. The duty of the judge advocate as recorder or registrar of the proceedings is not, in our law, as is that of prosecutor, attached to his office by statute, but by long established custom. This, while one of the principal functions of the judge advocate, is one in the exercise of which he is less independent than in any other, being here subject in the main to the direction and control of the court. That it is the court which really makes the record, the judge advocate being little more than its agent in the matter, is recognized in the Army Regulations, which, in par. 914, provide that—"every court-martial shall keep a complete and accurate record of its proceedings."

The Record thus being a history not properly of a prosecution by the judge advocate but of an investigation and judgment by the court, will be more suitably considered hereafter in a separate Chapter.

Authority and Duty under Art. 85—Disclosure of "vote or opinion." This Article provides that there shall be administered by the president of the court to the judge advocate before the trial is entered upon, an oath that he "*will not disclose or discover the vote or opinion of any particular member of the*

1. See Benét, 117. That a judge advocate cannot, independently of the court, assume, on account of its objectionable character, to reject a "statement" proposed to be offered by the accused, and require him to substitute another, was properly held in G. O. 31, Div. Atlantic, 187;

et-martial, unless required to give evidence thereof, as a witness, by a court of justice, in due course of law; nor divulge the sentence of the court to any but the proper authority, until it shall be duly disclosed by the same." This provision amounts, in the first place, to a prohibition of the disclosure, either directly or indirectly, by the judge advocate, in making up the record or otherwise, of the vote or opinion of any member, not only upon the finding but also upon any *interlocutory question* determined by the court. And a disclosure of the combined vote of *all* the members is a breach of the oath: thus a statement in the record at a vote or finding was "unanimous" has properly been held to constitute a violation of the prohibition of this Article, (as well of the 84th,) since it is a disclosure of the opinion of each individual member.¹

In regard to a corresponding article in the then British code, the view was expressed by Hough² that the judge advocate, though forbidden to disclose votes and opinions of members, was not precluded by the Article to state any circumstances within his knowledge which may not be recorded on the proceedings, which the commander-in-chief should be confidentially informed "so long, he adds, as the same did not extend to the discovery of the views of any particular member but concerned only "general opinion." And Macomb,³ upon this subject, writes:—"It is not inconsistent with his oath or duty for the judge advocate to communicate to the proper authority his views on the proceedings of the court." The occasions, however, will certainly be rare when the judge advocate will be justified in making a communication of such a character.

Divulging of the sentence. There is nothing in the form of oath prescribed by our Article⁴ to preclude the judge advocate from making known the sentence to the reviewing officer prior to the forwarding to him of the completed record. In practice, however, this is not often done, the custom of forwarding the

1. See DIGEST, 68.

2. Page 373, note.

3. Page 34. And see O'Brien, 259.

4. This part of the oath in the British law is:—"You do swear that you will not, *unless it is necessary for the due discharge of your official duties*, divulge the sentence of this court until it is duly confirmed." *es of Procedure* § 27. (A.)

proceedings immediately upon the termination of the trial doing away in general with any occasion for communicating the sentence before it would regularly become known from the record itself.

Unless the word "sentence" in the Article is construed as meaning *judgment*,—and no sufficient authority is perceived for such a construction,—it would not, strictly, constitute a violation of the oath for the judge advocate to disclose the fact of an *acquittal* by the court. But such a disclosure, made to the accused or any person other than the reviewing authority, would be so clearly contrary to the *spirit* of the Article and to the usage of the service, and so manifestly a breach of official confidence on the part of the judge advocate, as properly to render him amenable to a charge under Art. 62.¹

Authority and Duty under Sec. 1202, Rev. Sts.—Effect of the provision. This statute, by which provision is made for the issuing of process of attachment of witnesses by judge advocates, is as follows:—"Every judge advocate of a court-martial shall have power to issue the like process to compel witnesses to appear and testify which courts of criminal jurisdiction within the State, Territory, or District where such military courts shall be ordered to sit, may lawfully issue."

This statute, which would properly be included in the code of an article of war, was originally a provision of an Act of 1863 and in transferring the same to the Rev. Sts. the words "or courts of inquiry" which followed the words "court-martial" were omitted. The authority conferred, therefore, while it may legally be exercised by judge advocates of inferior as well as of general courts, cannot be exercised by recorders of courts of inquiry.

The authority is in terms vested solely in the judge advocate and it is by him alone that the process can be initiated. No power is conferred upon the *court*, nor does the mandate, like the

1. In a recent Order—G. G. M. O. 11, Dept. of the Mo., 1882—Gen. Pope, in passing upon a case of a soldier acquitted by a general court-martial, remarks as follows:—"After the close of this case the court directed the judge advocate to communicate to the *post commander* the fact of the acquittal of the accused. To this the judge advocate took exception on the ground that he felt bound by the nature of his oath not to so divulge the finding of the court, and had therefore respectfully refused to obey its mandate. These facts appearing of record, the Department Commander rules that the court exceeded its authority in the premises."

it of a civil tribunal, issue in its name.¹ The judge advocate, however, will sometimes properly *consult* the court as to the desirableness of resorting to an attachment; especially where any considerable time may be required for the service and return of the same, and an unusual adjournment may thus be necessitated. He will also properly resort to it whenever the court, in its desire to secure the best or material evidence not otherwise procurable, calls upon him for the purpose.²

Nature of the authority. To authorize a resort to an attachment under this statute, there must have been a formal subpoena duly issued by the judge advocate and duly served upon the witness, and not complied with by him.³ The authority to issue the compulsory process is coextensive with the authority to issue the subpoena, and with the jurisdiction of the court. The judge advocate of a court-martial convened at any place within the United States may issue an attachment to compel the attendance before it of a witness resident or being at any other place therein,⁴ and whether he be a military person or civilian.⁵ It was, however, for securing the attendance of civilian witnesses that the attachment was originally designed.

Service of the process. As to the mode of executing the process, it was held by the Attorney General⁶ that, in view of the omission in the Act to indicate to whom the process should be directed or by whom it should be served, the judge advocate might legally direct it to some military officer who would thereupon be "charged with the duty of executing it." Upon this ruling was issued G. O. 93 of 1868, now incorporated in par. 93 of the Army Regulations, by which it is enjoined that the judge advocate issuing the process, shall "formally direct the

1. "The attachment is not a writ or process of the *court*, but simply compulsory instrumentality placed at the disposition of the judge advocate as the prosecuting official representing the United States." DIGEST, 489.

2. See G. C. M. O. 32, Dept. of the Columbia, 1882.

3. DIGEST, 489; G. O. 93 of 1868; 1 Greenl. Ev. § 315, 319. As to the proper mode of service, see *ante*.

4. See DIGEST, 490, and note.

5. XII Opins. At. Gen., 501.

6. XII Opins. 501.

Authority and Duty under Section 1203, Rev. Sts.—Exercise of the authority. This section, which might also well have been inserted in the code as an article of war, and of which the original is a provision of the Act of March 3, 1863, c. 15, is expressed as follows:—"The judge advocate of a military court shall have power to appoint a reporter, who shall record the proceedings of, and testimony taken before, such court, and may set down the same, in the first instance, in short hand. The reporter shall, before entering upon his duty, be sworn, or affirmed, faithfully to perform the same."

The power to appoint the reporter is perceived to be vested exclusively in the judge advocate; it thus cannot be exercised by the court, nor is it essential that the court should concur in an appointment.¹ Inasmuch, however, as the court is responsible for the record which the reporter is to write, the judge advocate will be careful to employ as reporter such a person only as will be acceptable and satisfactory to the court, and will properly discontinue the employment where the appointee does not prove thus satisfactory.

The expense of a short-hand reporter should of course be incurred only in an important case, and a General Order of 1880, incorporated in par. 931 of the Army Regulations, declares that the employment of such a reporter shall be authorized only "in cases where the authority convening the court may consider such an officer necessary." As imposing a restriction upon a power conferred by statute, the legality of such an order may be doubted; in itself, however, it is a proper and desirable regulation, and should of course, (till rescinded or modified,) be strictly observed by the judge advocate, especially as its observance may be a necessary condition to the receiving by the reporter of his compensation.

Status, compensation, &c., of reporter. The judge advocate will properly supervise the performance of his duty by the reporter, giving him the needful instructions. By whom the reporter shall be sworn is not indicated in the law: in practice he is sworn by the judge advocate, who administers to him an oath following the wording of the statute.* Although it

1. DIGEST, 427.

2. See DIGEST, 427-8.

is prescribed in general terms in the Section that the "shall record the proceedings and testimony," it is in view of the provisions of Arts. 84 and 85, that he can more than an ordinary clerk, properly be permitted to sit with the court after it is cleared for its final deliberation, for the purpose of recording the findings and sentence.¹

The statute, in authorizing the appointment of short reporters, contemplates of course that they shall be properly compensated, and a provision of a General Order of 1863, embodied in par. 932 of the Army Regulations, fixes their compensation at an amount "not to exceed ten dollars a day;" and this amount is payable out of the annual appropriation for clerks of courts-martial. They are also allowed "transportation, of every kind," if the place of meeting of the court is changed after arrival; and it is directed that they "will be *paid* by the Department on the usual certificate of the judge advocate. This should be a certificate setting forth the precise term of employment, that is to say, in the words of the regulations, "the number of days embraced in 'the whole period of absence from their residence, traveling, or on duty.'"

DUTY OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE AFTER THE TRIAL AND COMPLETION OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

Besides making out the proper certificates for witnesses, &c., the only duties devolving upon the judge advocate after the proceedings of the court have been finally terminated and adjourned, are to complete the formal record, (annexing the exhibits, &c.,) and forward the same to the proper reviewing authority. The perfecting of the record will be referred to in the Chapter on the Record.

The Forwarding of the Record. This duty is enjoined upon the judge advocate by the 113th Article of war, but this Article is defective in requiring judge advocates of general courts-martial to forward the proceedings in all cases direct to the Judge Advocate General. In this general requirement the Article is in harmony with the provisions of Arts. 104 and 109, requiring

1. DIGEST, 172, 428. But the fact that he was allowed to sit with the court would not affect the *legal validity* of the finding or sentence. 68-9, 172.

the approval of the proceedings, &c., by the officer ordering the court; and the existing practice does not accord with it except in cases of records of courts which have been ordered by the President. The practice, and proper procedure, are as indicated in arts. 918 and 919, Army Regulations, of which the latter represents the substance of two General Orders, No. 72 of 1873 and 39 of 1877. The effect of these regulations and orders, and of the provisions of the Articles of war, is, that it is for the judge advocate, upon the completion of the proceedings in any case, to forward the record, where the court was convened by the President, to the Judge Advocate General as the staff officer of the President properly representing him for such purposes; and, where the court was convened by a military commander, to forward it directly to such commander, (or his successor in command,) as the authority empowered to act upon—approve or disapprove, &c.—the proceedings and sentence. In the latter class of cases the record will be transmitted to the general commanding the Army, the commander of a Division, Department, or separate army, the superintendent of the Military Academy, or, (in time of war,) the commander of a division or separate brigade—as the case may

If the record is one of a regimental or garrison court, it will be forwarded by the judge advocate to one of the commanders designated in the 81st or 82d Article.¹

A judge advocate is amenable to trial for neglect of duty in unreasonably delaying to forward a record. The General Orders of the Department of Virginia² contain a case of an officer convicted of the offence of neglecting, for thirteen days after their completion, to forward certain records of a military commission of which he was judge advocate, “thereby,” as it is added in the conviction, “unnecessarily prolonging the imprisonment of” the accused “who had been acquitted by the said commission.” In a further case in the Department of the Lakes,³ in which the proceedings were not transmitted by the judge advocate to department headquarters till at the end of a month after the completion of the trial, the reviewing authority, Gen. Robinson, remarks:—“No amount of extra duty required of any officer can excuse him for such delay as this while acting as judge advocate.”

¹ See DIGEST, 302 and note.

² G. O. 36 of 1866.

³ G. O. 10 of 1867.

cate." And he adds that the judge advocate should forward the record not only because directed to do so by Army Regulations, but because "common justice to the prisoner requires that he should be speedily punished if guilty and released if innocent."

In another Order¹ the point has been noted that a judge advocate should not defer sending forward a record till he can accompany it with records of other cases tried by the same court, but should in general transmit each record separately as soon as completed.²

1. G. O. 10, Dept. of Texas, 1873.

2. The duty devolved upon Judge Advocates of Department by par. 875, Army Regs., of transmitting to the Judge Advocate General monthly lists of the "cases tried and to be tried within their jurisdiction;" and the authority, impliedly conferred upon judge advocates by par. 1752, Army Regs., of administering oaths to persons detained in regard to the loss, &c., of public property—are matters not connected with the province of judge advocates as prosecuting officers of courts-martial, and therefore are merely referred to without remark.

CHAPTER XIV.

CHALLENGES.

In a previous Chapter we left the Court ready to proceed to be organized for the trial, subject to such objections, or challenges, which might properly be taken to the members. To this stage we now recur.

The Written Law on the Subject. The only statutory law relating to the matter of challenges is the 88th Article of war, of which the original was the 71st Article of the code of 1806. The existing Article is as follows:—“*Members of a court-martial may be challenged by a prisoner, but only for cause stated to the court. The court shall determine the relevancy and validity thereof, and will not receive a challenge to more than one member at a time.*”

The Army Regulations, par. 914, direct that the record of the court shall show that previously to the swearing of the court the accused was “asked whether he had any objection to any member, and his answer thereto.” The question here indicated as to be addressed to the accused is, in practice, preceded by a reading to the accused of the order or orders constituting the court and detailing the members by their names and official descriptions.

In considering the subject of the present Chapter, we will commence with a Construction of the provisions of the Article, thus disposing of several questions of importance, and examining next the Procedure under it, will conclude with a review of the Grounds of Challenge, as indicated and illustrated both by the military authorities and the rulings of the civil courts.

I. THE ARTICLE CONSTRUED AND CONSIDERED.

“**Members.**” This general term necessarily includes the President and subjects him to challenge in precisely the same

manner and to the same extent as any other member. The "members" only being made liable to objection, it follows that the judge advocate, not being a member, is not challengeable under the Article.¹ Any objection which the accused may have to the judge advocate must be addressed to the convening authority.²

In the term "members" is of course embraced not only the members originally detailed, (including both those present when the court is first assembled and the opportunity of challenge is first exercised by or extended to the accused, and those, if any, who may arrive and take part on a subsequent day,) but also members who may be added to the court to replace those dropped upon challenge or relieved by order.³ For, as to all members who come, under whatever circumstances, to act upon the court the accused has the same right, and should be offered the same opportunity, of objection under the Article. In several cases published in General Orders, the proceedings have been disapproved because it did not appear that the accused had been afforded the opportunity of challenge as to members joining, or added to, the court after its first organization or assembling.⁴

So, where a court-martial has been required to be dissolved, and a new court of some of the same members has been substituted, for the reason that by the operation of challenges or otherwise the first court was reduced below five members, the members of the second court are liable to challenge though they may have been so subject, and may even have been challenged in fact (unsuccessfully) on the original court.⁵

1. Simmons § 465, 499; Kennedy, 52; Hough, (A.) 48; Napier, 88; Clode, M. L., 126; Franklyn, 24; Rules of Procedure, 25. (B.); O'Brien, 240; De Hart, 116, 312; DIGEST, 73, 298; G. O. 28, Dept. of Arizona, 1876. The point was much contested in some of the earlier cases. In the leading case, for example, of Capt. Porter, U. S. N., in 1825, the liability of the judge advocate to challenge was elaborately urged by the accused in argument, but not recognized by the court.

2. Simmons § 465; Benét, 70; Capt. Loring's Trial, Militia Reporter, 2.

3. Simmons § 499; Hough, (A.) 50; Kennedy, 56; McNaghten, 174; Hughes, 42.

4. G. O. 68 of 1863; Do. 12, Dept. of the Gulf, 1865; Do. 2, Dept. of the Platte, 1868; Do. 5, Fourth Mil. Dist., 1868; G. C. M. O. 6, Dept. of the Miss., 1865.

5. See De Hart, 89-90.

"Of a Court-Martial." This term includes, with general, or regimental and garrison courts;¹ and the members of these courts are accordingly challenged in our practice, though more rarely than the members of general courts. The term does not embrace a court of inquiry² nor a military commission; and no other provision exists in our code by which the challenging of members of either of these bodies is authorized: *in practice*, however, the right of challenge is recognized before each.

"May be Challenged by a Prisoner." Here is authority for the taking of exceptions to members *by the accused only*. It is uniformly held, however, by the authorities that the same right may, and in a proper case should, be exercised by the prosecution;³ and in practice judge advocates occasionally though not frequently do interpose challenges on the part of the United States. Resting, as such action really does, on long-continued usage, it is now too late to dispute its authority. Were the question a new one, it might well be argued that the statute, in specially extending the privilege to the "prisoner" only, was properly to be construed as excluding the prosecutor.

"Only for Cause Stated to the Court." This provision includes *peremptory* challenges,⁴ *i. e.* challenges preferred without any reasons assigned therefor. Of these a certain number are, in capital cases, allowed to the prisoner, *in favorem vitæ*, at the common law, and are now allowed to both parties in civil and criminal cases by the laws of most of the States and of the

¹ Field officers' courts, however, are not subject to challenge under Article, because, being composed of but one member, there is no authority competent to pass upon the validity of the challenge. DIST., 70.

² Simmons § 340; DIGEST, 97. In the Joint Resolution of Congress, of Feb. 13, 1874, authorizing the special Inquiry in the case of Gen. Howard, it was provided,—“that the accused may be allowed the same right of challenge as allowed by law in trials by court-martial.” This exceptional provision would have been unnecessary if right had *legally* attached to courts of inquiry in general at military

³ That the right is “mutual” or “reciprocal,” *i. e.* possessed by judge advocate equally with the accused, see Adye, 167; Tytler, 944; Hough, 944; Id., (P.) 664; McNaghten, 103; Hughes, 41; Maltby, 31; Maltby, 28; O'Brien, 240; De Hart, 118; Benét, 70; Lee, G. O. 11, Dept. of Cal., 1865.

⁴ Maltby, 28; De Hart, 114, 118.

United States.¹ At military law, however, in England, the same were not formally sanctioned by usage,² and are now precluded by statute:³ in the American code only challenges for legal cause have ever been permitted.⁴

A "cause stated" is, properly, not merely a general statement or assertion, as that the member is prejudiced, biased, &c. The facts and circumstances in which the alleged prejudice, &c., is deemed to consist should in each case be set forth, to fully meet the requirement of the Article. The objection should be specific or as much so as the challenger can reasonably make it.⁵

"The Court * * * shall not Receive a Challenge to More than One Member at a Time." That is to say, challenges to the *array*⁶ shall not be entertained; or, as Simmons expresses it, "a prisoner cannot challenge the court generally," or "the whole of the members collectively."⁷ The objections which go to the jurisdiction, constitution, composition, &c., of the court *as a body* cannot be entertained by a court martial *as challenges* under the present Article.⁸ Nor, though the accused may deem all the members to be prejudiced or otherwise personally subject to exception, and though his grounds of objection may be the same to each member, he cannot include them all in a general challenge but is permitted to challenge the

1. See Sec. 819, Rev. Sts.

2. 2 Williamson, 85; 2 McArthur, 273, 275; Tytler, 221; Simmons § 500; Kennedy, 51; Griffiths, 47; Bombay, R., 11.

3. Army Act § 51.

4. As has been well said by Gen. Terry in a recent case,—“the allowance of a challenge is not a matter of discretion” but one to be determined “in accordance with established principles and rules of law.” G. C. M. O. 134, Dept. of Dakota, 1884.

5. Digest, 72. And compare Mann v. Glover, 2 Green, (N. J.), 209.

6. So called in reference to the whole body of jurors as “arrayed, or arranged on the panel.”

7. § 400. And see Digest, 73; G. C. M. O. S. Dept. of the Platte, 1877. In Capt. Drane's case, 1847, the accused challenged the array on the ground that not one-half of the members were his superiors in rank; the objection was not sustained. In Com. Wilkes' case, in 1864, the accused challenged the array on the ground that the Secretary of the Navy, who, in accordance with a peculiar usage confined to the navy, had preferred the charges, had also selected the court. The court refused to entertain the challenge.

8. Compare Brooks v. Davis, 17 Pick. 150; Clark v. Van Vleet, 20 Barb. 281.

ingly only.¹ He may indeed challenge all in succession if he see it,² but the court will only receive and pass upon a challenge to one member at a time, not entertaining a further objection till that previously offered has been determined.³

Where a party has several different grounds of objection to one member, the better practice is for the court to require that they be offered separately, in such order as the party may prefer.

II. PROCEDURE UNDER THE ARTICLE.

At what stage Challenges may be Offered. The regular and appropriate occasion for the interposing of challenges is when the accused, by the reading of the order or orders detailing the court, is informed as to the members present, and before the court is sworn.⁴ It is then that the accused is formally asked by the judge advocate, in accordance with the army regulation heretofore cited, if he has "any objection to any member," and it is then that, (like the prisoner before a civil court at the corresponding point of its proceedings,) he must present such objections as he knows or believes to exist, if he desires to take advantage of the same. If at this time he fails to present such objections, he is held to have *waived* them, and cannot be allowed to interpose them at any subsequent stage.⁵

1. See G. C. M. O. 8, Dept. of the Platte, 1873.

2. Simmons § 497, note; DIGEST, 73; G. O. 37, Dept. of Kans., 1864; 7 Opins. At. Gen., 707.

3. Simmons § 497. In a case in G. O. 24, Dept. of the Platte, 1869, the proceedings were disapproved because of the action of the court in entertaining a challenge offered by the accused to two members at the same time, "in violation of the plain provisions" of the Article.

4. Hough, 943; Griffiths, 47; De Hart, 125. "The regular practice is to challenge jurors as they come to the book to be sworn." *People v. Hamon*, 13 Wend. 352. "The proper time for challenging is between the appearance and swearing of the jurors." *Williams v. State*, 3 Kelly, 53.

5. Not replying or offering an objection when the question is put may be considered by the court as tantamount to his having *no* objection." *D'Aguilar*, 101. "If a cause of challenge known to the prisoner prior to his arraignment has been waived by him, it cannot subsequently be urged." *De Hart*, 125. And see DIGEST, 72. "The rule of the common law is that neither party has a right of challenge after the juror sworn, for cause then existing." *U. S. v. Morris*, 1 Curtis, 35. "If a party knows of any prejudice entertained by a juror, and makes no objection when the jury is empanelled, however good his cause of challenge then is, it must be deemed to be waived." *Fox v. Hazleton*, 10 Ark. 277. And see recent Opin. of At. Gen., in case of Lieut. Armstrong, of June 28, 1882.

But valid objections may exist at this time, not known to the accused, (or to his counsel, if he has one,¹) and of the existence of which he could not by reasonable diligence have been informed.² In such event, it is permitted to the accused, (as to the prisoner under similar circumstances at a criminal trial,³) to take his exception as soon as the facts justifying it are brought to his knowledge, although this may not be till some time after the court has been sworn and at a late stage of the trial.⁴ Again, pending the trial, a member who has been duly sworn at the proper time, and has taken part in the proceedings, may, by some expression of opinion or other act, render himself, as may a juror under similar circumstances, subject to challenge, and he may thereupon be challenged accordingly, whatever be the stage of the proceedings.⁵ In all such cases the military practice, in the

1. The rule that—"the knowledge of the counsel is the knowledge of the party, and notice to him is notice to the party," (*State v. Fuller*, 34 Conn. 280.) while applicable to military cases, would not ordinarily be so strictly applied as in a civil case.

2. The furnishing to the accused before the trial of a copy of the order detailing the court has already, (see Chapter XIII,) been recommended as affording him an opportunity to prepare such challenges as he may propose to offer when the court assembles.

3. "It has always been held that if a juror prejudge the case, and it is unknown" at the outset, "it is ground for challenge subsequently." *Sellers v. State*, 3 Scam. 410. In this case, and others, new trials were granted because a juror, on being challenged and interrogated before he was sworn, had stated that he had not formed or expressed an opinion, whereas it subsequently appeared that he had in fact done so.

Where the party, "though knowing of the objection, forgot to raise it at the proper time," he is not entitled to raise it subsequently. *Barlow v. State*, 2 Blackf. 112. "If the party, before the juror is sworn, neglects to avail himself of means of information readily accessible by which he could inform himself of the objection, the law fixes him with knowledge, and will not allow him to take advantage of his laches." See *Barley v. Trumbull*, 31 Conn. 581; *Quinebaug Bk. v. Leavens*, 81 Id. 87; *Fox v. Hartston*, 10 Pick. 277; *Gillespie v. State*, 8 Yerg. 507.

4. See *Tyler*, 231; *Hough*, 223, note; *Id.*, (A.) 49; *McNaghten*, 173; *De Hart*, 122.

5. "It has always been allowable to challenge a juror after he is sworn to a cause thereafter arising for the reason that the act of the juror which constitutes the new ground of challenge places him in the same relation to the remaining portion of the trial as that in which a juror challenged at the outset stands to the whole investigation; for the trial and the arising of the new ground can be no more impartial than can be the trial from the beginning with a juror biased or otherwise d

interest of justice, follows that of the civil courts, in allowing the challenge to be interposed.¹ The occasions, however, of challenges offered to members of courts-martial, after the court has been sworn, whether for causes previously existing but not known or for causes subsequently arising, are extremely rare.

Order of Challenges. In the British law, objections to members are raised in the order of their rank, beginning with the lowest in rank.² In our practice no such rule obtains; the accused, (or judge advocate,) being permitted to challenge members, where he objects to more than one, in such order as he may deem expedient.

Form of presenting Challenges. A party availing himself of the opportunity of challenge may state his objection verbally or in writing. In our practice, challenges are generally expressed orally: the court, however, in a proper case, as where the grounds of objection are exceptional in their nature, or vaguely declared, or are apparently frivolous or actuated by personal feeling, may require the challenge to be presented in writing. As observed by De Hart,³ the challenge should "always be stated in becoming and respectful terms"—a rule particularly to be observed where personal prejudice or hostility is ascribed to the member. The court may properly decline to entertain a challenge clearly frivolous,⁴ as well as one expressed in unnecessarily offensive language. But where the challenge merely states facts, which if proved will constitute a valid objection, the court cannot refuse to consider the same, however grave or injurious to the member may be the charge involved.

The court, according to the practice already noted, will require

qualified in advance.' *People v. Bodine*, 1 *Edmonds*, 44. And see *State v. Fuller*, 34 *Conn.* 280; *Mynatt v. Hubbs*, 6 *Heisk.* 322, and cases cited.

1. Where an accused officer, having a valid objection to a member of the court, omitted to raise it at all at the trial, it was held that he must be deemed to have consented to the court as composed, and was stopped from raising the objection at a later period as ground for impeaching the validity of the sentence. *Lieut. Keyes' Case*,—in *DIGEST*, 3, XV *Opins. At Gen.*, 432, and 15 *Ct. Cl.*, 533; *Opin. At. Gen.*, in *Lieut. Armstrong's Case*, of June 28, 1882.

2. *Rules of Procedure* § 25, (E. ;) *Simmons* § 497.

3. Page 116.

4. See *De Hart*, 118, 127; *G. O.* 13, *Dept. of the Potomac*, 1867.

the party, where he has several distinct grounds of objection member, to present them *seriatim*, and will consider and upon the same separately, precisely as if they were challenging separate members. Under the pretext or form of a second further objection, a party should not be permitted to reiterate substance, an objection already overruled.¹

Response to the Challenge by the Member. The objection being presented, the member excepted to may or may respond to the same in his discretion.² If he does so, admit that the objection as stated exists, and the same is a valid relevant one, the court will properly hold the challenge to sustained: indeed in such a case the member himself will of express a wish to be excused.³ If, on the contrary, he does admit the facts alleged, he may, by a statement or explanation (which he is always at liberty to make,⁴) satisfy the challenging party that he is in error and induce him to withdraw his challenge. Thus it is not unusual for a member objected to prejudice against the accused, to disclaim having any such feeling or bias as imputed and to state that he is aware of no reason why he cannot judge impartially in the case. Upon such a declaration

1. Compare Mann v. Glover, 2 Green, 195. As already indicated where a valid ground of challenge exists which the accused, through ignorance, fails to present in a proper form, he should be so instructed and assisted by the judge advocate or the court as to be enabled to take the full benefit of the same. See G. C. M. O. 19, Dept. of the Interior, 1882.

2. That the court cannot properly require him so to respond G. O. 2 of 1858.

3. The mere statement of an accused, not admitted by the member, is not sufficient to support a challenge. See G. C. M. O. 35, Dept. of the Interior, 1884.

4. But see *supra*, to the effect that the member cannot be excused his own request but only upon a challenge regularly passed upon and sustained.

5. The challenged member may admit and ask to withdraw, or explain. Hough, (P.) 709. "The usual practice is for the member to admit and deny the truth of the objection, or to explain it." O'Brien, 240. And see Simmons § 500; Bombay, R., 11; De Hart, 113.

In the civil practice, opportunity is afforded to jurors, in justice to themselves, to explain away any injurious imputations involved in the charges as offered. Thus in Taylor v. Greely, 3 Greenl. 204, the court

6. The testimony of the juror himself is to be heard in explanation of the language or conduct imputed to him. In McFadden v. Coe, 10 N. H. 17, it is observed:—"A juror, like every other person publicly accused, ought to be heard in vindication of his character."

in evident good faith, the accused will, in the majority of cases, cease to press his objection.¹

trial of the Challenge. But where the statement of the member fails to satisfy the challenging party, and the objection is insisted upon; or where the member makes no response to the challenge; it is open to the party either to submit the question of the validity of the challenge to the court simply upon his own statement and that of the member, if any, or, (as is in general the proper course where the member fails to make an admission or state facts,) to proceed to try the challenge by the offer of evidence,² like any other issue.³

This evidence may include not only the testimony of witnesses, well as such documentary or other written proof as may be relevant,⁴ but also the testimony of the member himself brought to upon an examination instituted by the challenging party.

That the challenging party is entitled, if he desires it, to submit the challenged member to an examination by interrogatories, in the same manner as a juror may be subjected to examination in the criminal practice,⁵ is well settled.⁶ Some of the authori-

1. DIGEST, 72; O'Brien, 240.

2. A court should not allow a challenge "upon its mere assertion by the accused without proof, and in the absence of any admission on the part of the member." DIGEST, 72. The admission of an objection unsupported by evidence and "without any reason shown beyond a mere supposition or prejudice of the prisoner, tends in effect to introduce into courts-martial the allowance of peremptory challenge—a practice wholly unknown to our military code." G. C. M. O. 66 of 1875.

3. That the proceeding upon a contested challenge is a trial upon an issue joined, see *Clark v. Van Vracken*, 20 Barb. 281.

4. See *Simmons* § 500; *De Hart*, 116. That any relevant and proper testimony is competent to show the true state of mind of a challenged juror where his statement or personal examination has failed to disclose bias on his part, see *Bickam v. Pissant*, *Coxe*, 220; *State v. Benton*, 2 Dev. & Bat. 212; *People v. Reyes*, 5 Cal. 347. "As to the mode of proving a challenge, the law of evidence is the same as in other cases. Proof may be made by records, papers, or witnesses, either to support the challenge or to disprove it." *State v. Spencer*, 1 Zabr. 199.

5. "In order to arrive at the condition of the person's mind who is offered as a juror, a party is permitted to ask of the person himself questions the answers to which may tend to show whether he is prejudiced or not in the cause which he is about to undertake to decide." *People v. Reyes*, 5 Cal. 349. And see *Lohman v. People*, 1 Comst. & Justices v. Plank R. Co., 15 Ga. 54; *State v. Benton*, 2 Dev. & 222.

O'Brien, 240; G. O. 21 of 1853. In this Order and also in G. O.

ties indeed refer to this examination as properly had upon oath, like the examination upon the *voir dire* in the civil courts.¹ But our military law makes no provision for swearing the member under the circumstances; and, in the absence of such authority, it is clear that for the court, before it organizes, to assume to administer to him the oath of a witness, or any oath, would be a proceeding without warrant of law.² But, though not sworn as such, he is *examined* as a witness,³ and the examination is therefore to be governed by the rules which specially govern the examination of a juror under similar circumstances, the principle of which is that questions shall not be asked the answers to which will tend to criminate the party, or will directly attach to him disgrace, as by the confession of dishonorable or disreputable acts.⁴ The exemption, however, from answering such questions is held, in the case of a juror, to be a *personal privilege* which may be *waived*.⁵

As to the *other* witnesses who may be offered, these also cannot

8. Div. Pacific, 1870, the proceedings of a trial were disapproved because the right of personal examination of the member was denied to the accused by the court.

1. See O'Brien, 239; Ives, 92; G. O. 35 of 1867.

2. "The court must decide on the *assertion* of the party challenging the officer challenged, and of the witnesses examined; for it has no authority to receive evidence *on oath*, before the administration of the prescribed oath to the members." Simmons § 500. And see, to a similar effect, De Hart, 116; DIGEST, 72. At this stage indeed of the proceedings, no oath whatever can legally be administered either by the president or judge advocate.

3. "The juror becomes merely a witness, and he may be examined as a witness. He will be exempt from answering such questions as witnesses are exempt from answering, and from no others." Justices of Plank R. Co., 15 Ga. 55.

4. O'Brien, 239; G. O. 21 of 1853. "A juror may be asked such questions as do not tend to his infamy or disgrace." 5 Bac. Abr., 30. "It cannot be asked a juror if he has been either charged with, imprisoned for, or convicted of, a crime." Jones v. State, 2 Blackf. 47. The exemption of a member of a court-martial from being required to give criminating testimony should be held to include testimony implicating him either in a military or a civil offence.

If the inquiries addressed to the member by the accused bring out unfavorable opinions of the accused himself, these, if given in good faith, are "official and privileged." G. O. 2 of 1858. It is added to this Order that if an answer "goes too far" in injurious reference to the accused, "the court should interpose."

5. Boon v. State, 1 Kelly, 622; Sprouse v. Com., 2 Va. Cas. 371.

sworn; no authority to swear witnesses at this stage being conferred by the code or other statute.

It is to be added that the other party, if he thinks proper to test the challenge, may take part in the examination by asking questions in the nature of cross-interrogatories to the member or witnesses. He may also introduce counter-witnesses to show evidence relevant to the issue.¹ It is very rare, however, that the trial of a military challenge is thus far extended.

Either party, or both parties, may make argument upon the challenge.

Challenge by the Judge Advocate. The challenges deemed to be offered on the part of the prosecution, if any, are in practice interposed *after* the full exercise of his right by the member,² and in a similar form and manner.

Challenge by the Court. The trial of the challenge, which is commonly conducted in open court, having been completed, the court is in general cleared for deliberation upon the determination of the matter of the objection,—a proceeding, it may be remarked, for which it is not required to be sworn, and is not a matter of practice, sworn.³ Where indeed the ground of challenge is stated or shown to exist, is manifestly valid, (as in the case of a challenge distinguished, as will hereafter be indicated, in the practice as a challenge “for principal cause,”) the court does not go through the form of clearing, but may well pass upon it and allow the challenge at once as they sit.

Upon a clearing or deliberation, the challenged member usually properly withdraws from the court, that is to say does not sit with it:⁴ if however he stays, he takes no part in the discussion or decision. His remaining cannot indeed affect the validity of the proceedings, but his withdrawal is desirable as affording freedom of discussion⁵ and may properly be requested

Compare *State v. Spencer*, 1 Zab. 199, as cited in note *ante*.

Hough, 944, note; *Id.*, (A.) 45; De Hart, 125.

See De Hart, 116.

Hough, (P.) 779; *Id.*, (A.) 48; Simmons § 500; Kennedy, 51; R., 87; Griffiths, 47; Bombay R., 11; Hughes, 42; Macomb, 31; Hart, 115; Benét, 69; Coppée, 65; DIGEST, 72.

Simmons § 500, (edit. of 1863.) Attorney General Cushing, in report, (VII Opins., 284.) upon “the course to be pursued by an arbitrator, judge, or other member of a plural body,” when for any legal cause

by the court. In an early leading case,¹ a member of a general court-martial, for a refusal, *expressed in grossly disrespectful terms*, to retire when so requested, was brought to trial and convicted upon a charge of "conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline." The member indeed cannot be compelled to withdraw against his will, nor will the mere fact of omitting or declining to withdraw constitute a military offense; but in general his sense of propriety and justice will induce him to retire of his own accord and as a matter of course.

That the court, including the challenged member, may consist of but five persons, can constitute no reason why he should withdraw. That four members of a general court are competent at this stage of the proceedings, to determine the matter of challenge offered to a fifth member, is well settled in our law; the member does not cease to be a member because of being challenged. So, also, two members of a regimental or garrison court may, and must, pass upon an exception taken to the remaining member. But where, of a general court consisting of five members, four have duly allowed a challenge to the fifth member who has accordingly retired from the court, the four remaining are not competent to entertain a further challenge; that is to say, three of the remaining four cannot legally pass upon challenge to the other member.³

In deliberating upon the subject of the challenge as offered, will be for the court to inquire, *first*, whether the ground of objection advanced is a valid one; *secondly*, whether its existence in the particular case is established. What are valid grounds of challenge at military law will be considered presently. As to the question of the sufficiency of the proof, the court will properly bear in mind two principles: 1st, that the burden of main-

"precluded from participating in the decision" of such a body, observes that "it is generally held that in such case he ought not to participate in the deliberation which precedes the decision. The reason assigned," he adds, is that "if the person who has not the right to concur in the decision, participate in the deliberation, or be so much influenced even, it is impossible to know whether he has or has not influenced the result."

1. See G. O. 1 of 1858.

2. O'Brien, 240; DIGEST, 59. And see G. O. 24, Dept. of the Platte, 1869; G. C. M. O. 10, Dept. of Texas, 1873.

3. This was actually done in a recent case; the proceeding being of course disapproved by the reviewing authority. See G. C. M. O. 7, Dept. of Dakota, 1882.

taining the challenge, and establishing that the member does not stand indifferent,¹ rests upon the challenging party, and that a member, like a juror, is presumed to be qualified till he is shown to be the contrary;² 2d, that where any reasonable doubt exists of the indifference of the member in the case to be tried, it will be safer and in the interest of justice to sustain the objection and excuse him.³ And this although the court may thus be reduced below the legal minimum and it may not be convenient to recomplete it. For, the convenience of the service is less to be regarded than the obligation to administer justice. The majority of military writers certainly lean rather in favor of supporting challenges than rejecting them,⁴ and the proceedings of courts-martial have been not unfrequently disapproved in General Orders for the reason that valid objections to members have failed to be allowed.⁵

The Determination of the Challenge. After such free interchange of views as may be desirable, a vote, in the manner prescribed by Art. 95, is taken upon the objection;⁶ the question to be voted upon being—shall the challenge be allowed? A

1. "The law aims to exclude bias, &c., from a jury so far as the infirmity of human nature and the imperfections of human institutions will permit." *State v. Benton*, 2 Dev. & Bat. 215. "Exact and absolute impartiality is not to be had. The utmost that can be attained is that jurors should be as impartial as the lot of humanity will permit." *Com. v. Hill*, 4 Allen, 591. And see *Burr's Trial*, 370, 416.

2. *U. S. v. Watkins*, 3 Cranch C. 579; *State v. Benton*, 2 Dev. & Bat. 214; *People v. Stout*, 4 Parker, 108; *Stewart v. State*, 15 Ohio, 155; *Holt v. People*, 13 Mich. 227; *People v. Brotherton*, 47 Cal. 388.

3. *Black v. State*, 42 Texas, 377; *R. R. Co. v. Munkers*, 11 Kans. 223; *Holt v. People*, 13 Mich. 224.

4. *Kennedy*, 54; *Napier*, 94; *De Hart*, 115; *Benét*, 69; *Coppée*, 67; *G. C. M. O.* 66 of 1875; *G. O.* 13, Dept. of the Potomac, 1867.

5. See *G. C. M. O.* 82 of 1868; *G. O.* 16, Dept. of the Ohio, 1865; *Do.* 11, Dept. of Cal., 1865; *Do.* 13, Dept. of the Potomac, 1867; *Do.* 14, Dept. of La., 1868; *Do.* 20, Dept. of Arizona, 1870; *Do.* 45, Dept. of the South, 1873; *Do.* 5, Dept. of the Gulf, 1873; *Do.* 36, 47, Dept. of Dakota, 1874; *Do.* 15, Id., 1875; *G. C. M. O.* 10, 71, Dept. of Texas, 1873; *Do.* 44, Id., 1875; *Memo.*, Dept. of the Columbia, June 19, 1874. But "while courts are prone—and justly so—to deal liberally with prisoners in the matter of challenges, it should not be forgotten that this right to protection may degenerate into a means for annoying officers against whom prisoners are prejudiced." *G. C. M. O.* 35, Dept. of Dakota, 1884. (*Gen. Terry.*)

6. See *Pipon & Col.*, 51.

majority of course decides. Where there is a tie, it should be held, upon the analogy of all deliberative assemblies,¹ that the objection is not sustained; and to this effect has also been the practice of the civil courts.² Simmons³ indeed declares that "when the votes are equally divided the decision is given in favor of the challenge being allowed," and this statement has been repeated by O'Brien.⁴ In the absence, however, of positive law or regulation, such a rule could rest only upon usage, and no usage to this effect can be said to exist in our service. So, the British rule that where there is a tie vote upon a challenge, the president of the court shall have a casting vote,⁵ has not—it need hardly be observed—been adopted in our law. In the procedure of American courts-martial, a tie vote upon an objection to a member, as upon any other proposition, is *no vote*, *i. e.* is not the indispensable majority, and the objection is not sustained.⁶

Procedure upon a Decision. The court having come to a conclusion upon the cause of challenge assigned, the doors, (the court having cleared,) are opened, and, the parties and the member who had retired being present, the decision is announced by the president. If it is that the challenge is not sustained, the member retakes his seat and the proceedings continue in the regular course. If the reverse is the result, and the member is, as it is commonly phrased, "excused," he withdraws permanently; whereupon the court, if five members still remain, goes on with its business.⁷ If the sustaining of the challenge has reduced the number to four, the court, as it cannot proceed, adjourns and reports the fact through its president to the convening authority. The latter, if he deems it expedient, will issue an

1. "An equal division upon a question is a decision of it in the negative." This, on the ground that—"the votes given for the negative" are "sufficient in number to neutralize the votes given on the other side." Cushing, *Law and Practice of Legislative Assemblies* § 303.

2. See *U. S. v. Watkins*, 3 Cranch C., 443.

3. § 497. And to this effect is now the statute law, as to challenges of members other than the president. *Army Act* § 51. (5.)

4. Page 240.

5. *Army Act* § 53. (8.)

6. See *DIGEST*, 479.

7. After a challenge interposed by the accused has been acted upon, it is proper for the judge advocate to ask him if he has any "further objections." *G. C. M. O. 67*, Dept. of Dakota, 1882.

order adding to the court a member or members, or detailing a new court altogether.¹ As already indicated, members thus added will be liable to challenge in the usual manner; and, in the event of a new court being appointed, embracing any of the members of the former court, these will become again subject to challenge in the same manner as when upon the original detail.²

A Member excusable only upon Challenge. It remains to remark that the proceeding authorized by Art. 88 is the only one by which a member may be relieved from attendance by the court. Except upon a challenge duly made and sustained, the court cannot excuse a member,³ nor, of course, can a member in any case excuse himself.⁴ Simmons⁵ and Kennedy⁶ have sanctioned the court's permitting a member, excepted to for personal prejudice or hostility, to withdraw voluntarily if he desires it, without his objection being regularly passed upon; and their view has been inconsiderately repeated by O'Brien⁷ and De Hart.⁸ Our Article, however, clearly conveys no authority for the excusing by the court of members at their own request, and such action has been repeatedly condemned in General Orders.⁹ Where an officer detailed upon a court-martial deems himself disqualified, from prejudice or otherwise, to sit upon a particular trial, he should, if there is time, communicate the facts to the convening authority and ask to be relieved.¹⁰

1. In the British practice, members excused or challenged may be replaced by officers detailed to attend the court for the purpose and called "waiting officers." Rules of Procedure § 17. (D.,) and Second Appendix. At an early period in our army a similar purpose was served by "supernumerary" officers. De Hart, 115; O'Brien, 240. This practice has been referred to in Chapter XII.

2. De Hart, 89.

3. DIGEST, 73. And see G. C. M. O. 27, 33, Dept. of Dakota, 1881; also Orders cited under this head, *post*.

4. G. O. 66, Dept. of the Platte, 1871. *Contra*, see Sackville's Trial, VI, VII,—a precedent without authority in this country.

5. § 500.

6. Page 54.

7. Page 239.

8. Page 118.

9. See G. O. 21 of 1853; Do. 66, Dept. of the Platte, 1871; Do. 43, d., 1875; G. C. M. O. 73, Dept. of Texas, 1873; Do. 25, Dept. of Arizona, 1880. *Contra*—G. O. 34, Dept. of the Gulf, 1875.

10. DIGEST, 73; G. O. 43, Dept. of the Platte, 1875. And see G. C. I. O. 25, Dept. of Arizona, 1880.

Where this cannot be done prior, to the trial, the member, before being sworn, should make known the fact of the objection either directly to the party interested in raising the same,¹ or preferably to the court in the presence of the parties, so that one or the other party may formally take the exception unless he elects to waive it.²

III. THE GROUNDS OF CHALLENGE.

Classification. At the common law, the causes for challenge to jurors were divided into four classes: those *propter honoris respectum*, (on account of a respect for nobility;) *propter delictum*, (on account of crime;) *propter defectum*, (on account of defect, that is to say personal or legal incapacity;) and *propter affectum*, (on account of favor, or bias.)³

Challenges propter honoris respectum. This kind of challenge, says Coke, could be taken only to a "peere of the realm or lord of parliament, for these, in respect of honor and nobilitie, are not to be sworn on juries."⁴ And he adds:—"When any of the commons is to have a tryall, either at the King's suit, or between partie and partie, a peere of the realm shall not be impanelled in any case."⁵ It need hardly be observed that no challenge, answering to or resembling this one, is known to the procedure of the courts of this country, where every man is the peer of every other man before the law.

Challenges propter delictum. The term "*delictum*" refers to an infamous crime, that is to say a crime affixing infamy, in the legal sense, upon the offender,—as a capital crime or felony.⁶ Of the crime which is the ground of challenge the juror must have been duly convicted, and the proper proof to sustain the challenge is the *record* of such conviction.⁷ An instance of a valid challenge of this class would hardly be possible in the

1 See G. C. M. O. 73, Dept. of Texas, 1873.

2 See G. O. 66, Dept. of the Platte, 1871.

3 Co. Litt., 156, b. And see Simmons § 502.

4 Co. Litt., 156, b.

5 Id. And see 2 Gabbett, 391.

6 Co. Litt., 158, a; State v. Squaires, 2 Nev. 230; Tytler, 225; Ady, 176.

7 2 Hawkins, c. 43, s. 25; Tytler, 225; Adye, 176.

military practice, and no case is known in which one has been interposed.

Challenges *propter defectum*. Challenges of this class are of two kinds: 1. Those based upon some physical or mental defect; 2. Those based upon an incapacity created by law.

1. Of the former class—"unsoundness of mind, or such defect of the mind or the organs of the body as render him incapable of performing the duties of a juror,"¹ as also sickness, deafness, and intoxication,² are specified by the authorities as causes properly exempting a juror from serving, and constituting ground of challenge. So, at military law, Hough³ states it as one of "the legitimate causes of challenge" that the officer from age, deafness or other infirmity, is incompetent to discharge the duties of a member."

2. The legal incapacity upon which the *second* class of challenges *propter defectum* is based is one created by statute or established by the common law. Certain of the incapacities at common law, as alienage and minority, are adopted by the statutes of most of the States as legal disqualifications in the case of jurors, and, under the provisions of Sec. 800, Rev. Sts., the same facts would be held to be valid grounds of challenge in the U. S. courts.

But neither alienage nor minority would be recognized as such grounds at military law, where neither the age, nativity, nor civil status of officers is matter of positive statutory regulation, and where it is required of members of courts-martial in general simply that they shall be commissioned officers, and shall have military rank.⁴ If indeed a member has not been duly commissioned or appointed, or if his commission has been vacated by operation of law under Sec. 1222 or 1223, Rev. Sts., by his accepting or exercising the functions of a civil office, or his accepting or holding an appointment in the diplomatic or consular service, he will be challengeable *propter defectum*. So, if he has not military rank,

1. *State v. Squaires*, 2 Nev. 230.

2. *Schœffler v. State*, 3 Wis. 828; *Jesse v. State*, 20 Ga. 164; *Pierce v. State*, 13 N. H. 555.

3. Page 943, note. "The members should not be deaf, or blind, or boring under any illness that may prevent their constant attendance." l., 48. And see *D'Aguiar*, 102.

4. See Chapter VII.

as if he is a professor of the Military Academy,¹ he will be similarly challengeable.

Further, a challenge of this class will be valid in a case of an officer incapacitated by statute from sitting upon the particular or any court. Thus an officer of the regular army detailed upon a court for the trial of militia, or an officer of marines placed on a military court when not detached for service with the army, or a retired officer sitting upon any court-martial, would be subject to challenge *propter defectum*.

Challenges propter affectum. This is by far the most numerous class of challenges taken to jurors, and so to members of military courts. It includes all the grounds and facts of objection from which an inference of bias or partiality on the part of the juror or member must be, or may be, inferred.

Challenges for principal cause and for favor. Here is a proper occasion to note an important distinction in the law of challenge, especially applied to challenges *propter affectum*, by which challenges to jurors are distinguished as (1) challenges "for cause" or "for principal cause," (sometimes termed "principal challenges,") and (2) challenges "to the favor," or "for favor."

Of "*principal*" challenges of this class the cause alleged is a specific fact of such a nature that, being admitted or proved to exist, it raises *per se*, and necessarily, a presumption of bias or prejudice which cannot be rebutted and the effect of which is absolutely to exclude the juror. Of such causes, among the most conspicuous are the following:—declared enmity; fixed and decided opinion on the merits; having been summoned as a material witness on the merits; relationship within a certain degree; direct personal interest in the result of the trial; having served on the grand jury which found the indictment; having sat upon a former trial of the defendant; having conscientious scruples which will influence a verdict.

1. See Chapter VII.

2. It may be remarked that the challenges of the three classes already noticed—*propter defectum*, *propter affectum*, *propter delictum*, and *propter defectum*, are all properly "principal" challenges: the privilege, crime, incapacity, in any case needing but to be shown to exist to substantiate the objection as a matter of course.

challenges of this class "*for favor*," that is to say for being of one side or the other, the grounds are not such as, of themselves, imply bias; the question of their sufficiency in law is wholly contingent upon the testimony, which may or may not accord to the character and significance of all the circumstances, raise a presumption of partiality. Such are challenges founded upon the personal relations of the juror and one of the parties to the case; their relationship when not so near as to constitute "principal cause;" the entertaining by the juror of a prejudiced opinion or impression in regard to the merits of the case; his having an unfavorable opinion of the character or conduct of the prisoner; his having taken part in a previous trial of the prisoner for a different offence, or of another person for the same or a similar offence; or some other incident, no matter what, (for all kinds of challenges "to the favor" are as various as the incidents that affect human feeling,*) which, alone or in combination with other incidents, may have so acted upon the juror that he is not "in a state of neutrality" between the parties. It has been remarked by the court in a leading case, the distinction between these two classes of challenges is that, in the former the question, that the juror is incompetent, is a conclusion of *law* from established facts; in the latter, the question whether he is so is a question of *fact* to be determined by the particular circumstances in evidence.²

Legal grounds. Keeping this distinction in mind as of importance in passing upon military as well as civil cases, we will now consider the chief grounds of challenge of the present *propter affectum*,—which, as has been said, comprises the

challenge to favor applies to any man where there is sufficient ground to suspect he may be more favorable to one side than to the other. *Rollins v. Ames*, 1 N. H. 350.

People v. Bodine, 1 Denio, 308. And see *Freeman v. People*, 4 N. Y. 204; *People v. Stout*, 4 Parker, 110; *Mann v. Glover*, 2 Green, 204. "Principal" challenges were heretofore specially distinguished from challenges to the favor in that while the former were passed upon by the court, the latter were determined by sworn "triers"—two or more persons, usually members of the bar, or jurymen already found competent—who, being designated for the purpose by the court, heard the challenge *pro* and *contra*, and decided, as a question of fact, whether the juror was biased. Now, however, in a considerable number of the States also in the federal practice, (see Sec. 819, Rev. Sts.,) triers are dispensed with, and all disputed challenges are decided by the

great majority of the exceptions which come to be taken to members of courts-martial. Some of these will be found to be peculiar to the military practice, but the greater part are common to both of civil and military courts.

These grounds of exception will be examined in order under the following heads:—1. Opinion formed or expressed; 2. Interest; 3. Relationship; 4. Personal prejudice or hostility; 5. Intimate or peculiar personal relations; 6. Having taken part in a former trial or inquiry; 7. Being a material witness in the case; 8. Miscellaneous grounds.

Opinion Formed or Expressed—*Expressed opinion* *It need not proceed from ill will.* Whether an opinion is formed and expressed upon a case shall be held to affect the competency of a juror, or of a member of a court-martial, or not, depends upon its nature and extent, irrespective of any personal feeling of ill will, or the reverse, on the part of the juror or member; such personal feeling in fact, when entertained, is to be treated as a separate and distinct ground of challenge.

Must be positive and definite. The opinion, proposed to disqualify the juror or member, should be a positive and unqualified one. As remarked by the court in an adjudged case, "an opinion, necessarily to exclude a juror from the panel, must be absolute, unconditional, definite and settled, in distinction from one which is hypothetical, conditional, indefinite and uncertain. The mind must be, for the time being, settled and at rest upon the question of the prisoner's guilt, or upon the question of the prisoner's innocence. Such an opinion would ordinarily be one either

1. The doctrine is not to be taken that the expressed opinion must proceed from ill will or ill feeling. (See *Ex parte* *Smith*, 10 *Adm.* 271. This except in *New York v. Smith*, 10 *Adm.* 271. See also *Ex parte* *Smith*, 10 *Adm.* 271.)

2. The doctrine is not to be taken that the expressed opinion must be one made in the presence of the court. (See *Ex parte* *Smith*, 10 *Adm.* 271.)

3. The doctrine is not to be taken that the expressed opinion must be one made in the presence of the court. (See *Ex parte* *Smith*, 10 *Adm.* 271.)

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6. The doctrine is not to be taken that the expressed opinion must be one made in the presence of the court. (See *Ex parte* *Smith*, 10 *Adm.* 271.)

7. The doctrine is not to be taken that the expressed opinion must be one made in the presence of the court. (See *Ex parte* *Smith*, 10 *Adm.* 271.)

8. The doctrine is not to be taken that the expressed opinion must be one made in the presence of the court. (See *Ex parte* *Smith*, 10 *Adm.* 271.)

9. The doctrine is not to be taken that the expressed opinion must be one made in the presence of the court. (See *Ex parte* *Smith*, 10 *Adm.* 271.)

10. The doctrine is not to be taken that the expressed opinion must be one made in the presence of the court. (See *Ex parte* *Smith*, 10 *Adm.* 271.)

personal knowledge of the facts, or acquired from some reliable source—as from a party to the case, from hearing the evidence upon a previous trial or preliminary investigation, from conversations with witnesses, &c. But if the opinion be fixed and definite, it does not matter how unreliable the quarter from which it is imbibed. If the mind of the juror or member be possessed by a clear and settled opinion, it should be held to disqualify him, however or whencesoever derived.¹ A decided opinion, it may be added, need not be expressed in a public manner. Hough² mentions a case of an opinion, casually expressed in private, which was held sufficient ground of challenge.

Transient opinion or impression, insufficient. On the other hand, an impression or cursory opinion upon the merits of a case or the guilt or innocence of the accused, which has no decided hold upon the mind, and will fail to influence judgment in the presence of sworn testimony, will not, as it is held generally by the authorities, properly exclude a juror or member of a military court, upon challenge. Such, chiefly, are slight impressions or shifting opinions so frequently formed by public rumor or common report, as well as those gathered from such material as the gossip of acquaintances, casual conversations with persons who were not witnesses and have no personal knowledge of the facts and, especially, articles in newspapers. In a case in New York, the court, referring to impressions

It is the preconceived opinion that renders him incompetent, and the source from which that opinion is formed or derived." *State v. 7 Iowa*, 307. If the opinion be decided, it is no matter that it be derived "from the report or hearsay of others. Many men form their opinions from the statements of their neighbors in whom they have confidence. Indeed there are many men who have more confidence in the decided opinions of their intelligent neighbors than they have in their own. *Reynolds v. State*, 1 Kelly, 229. The fact that a juror has made up his mind on *insufficient* grounds is held *especially* to indicate a disqualifying bias. See 1 Burr's Trial, 370. *Precedents*, 715.

The general rule that a juror must be superior to all exception should not be carried to such a length as to run the risk of defeating the ends of justice by excluding from the panel persons who have expressed a definite opinion of the merits of a case, where " * * * it has become a subject of general conversation." *Irvine v. Bank*, 2 W. & A. "Sustaining challenges on (such) slight grounds tends to interfere with the administration of public justice in the hands of the most intelligent and least discriminating portion of the community, by whom

derived from the source last mentioned, remark:—"It is quite obvious that if jurors are on such grounds to be rejected, it will be impossible at the present day to administer justice in cases sufficiently exciting to inspire a newspaper paragraph."¹

Hypothetical opinions. Of this general description are the opinions characterized in the books as "hypothetical;" and it is to say opinions derived chiefly from rumor, hearsay, or other imperfect information, which, proceeding upon the supposition "that the facts are as they have been represented or assumed to be," take, when expressed, a hypothetical form. As where a juror declares that he has formed an opinion, if what he has heard is true; or, if what he has heard or read is true, he believes the prisoner to be guilty or innocent, as the case may be. The belief, the continuance of which is conditional upon the proof at the trial according with the information of the juror, is held to be general, not to constitute a sufficient ground of challenge.²

Test of intermediate opinions. Where the opinion of a juror is something more than slight, but at the same time is positive, being in fact an opinion falling between the two extremes described, this test of its sufficiency to exclude upon challenge has been applied by the courts, *viz.*—*whether it is so far as to require evidence to remove it.* If the answer of the juror when interrogated on this point, or the drift of the evidence at the hearing, is in the affirmative, it is held to be generally sufficient to conclude that his mind is so far preoccupied as to render

the safety of the accused may be endangered and the proper administration of the laws put to hazard." *Moran v. Com.*, 9 Leigh, 651.

¹ *Sanchez v. People*, 4 Parker, 535. And see *State v. Medlicott*, 280; *People v. Mather*, 4 Wend, 230; *People v. Bodin*, 1 Edmonds, 50; *People v. Hayes*, 13 L. 582; *U. S. v. McHenry*, 6 Blatford, 503; 1 Burr's Trial, 370.

² In *State v. Sater*, 8 Iowa, 220, the hypothetical opinion held to disqualify the juror was "if what he had heard should be proved upon the trial, he had an opinion made up." In *Burk v. State*, 27 1 43, the court observed on a similar declaration: "It was equivalent to saying, if the facts should be as I have heard, then I have an opinion made up; then I have none, and I have no opinion as to the truth of the facts." Thus, the general principle that hypothetical opinions do not disqualify survives. *State v. Potter*, 15 Conn. 166; *People v. Matlack*, 4 Wend, 232; *People v. Mosher*, 8 Johns, 445; *People v. Fulk*, 4 Park, 100; *People v. Shaw*, 2 Park, 71; *Mann v. Glover*, 2 Grout, 30; *State v. Boston*, 3 Dev. & B. 215.

competent.² In a case in California,² where a juror stated, on challenge, that he had formed an opinion which it would require evidence to remove, the court observe:—"In the mind of this juror" the prisoner "is held guilty before a single witness testifies against him; reversing the rule of law that presumes a person innocent till his guilt is *prima facie* established by evidence."

The opinion should be as to guilt or innocence. It is a general rule that the opinion of the juror, to affect his competency, should be one upon the merits of the case, that is to say—where a verdict is to be rendered—upon the guilt or innocence of the accused.³ Thus, as held in several cases, a belief merely that a homicide or a murder has been committed is not an opinion as to the guilt of the party charged.⁴ Nor, as ruled in a further case,⁵ is a belief, that the prisoner killed the person for whose murder he is indicted, such an opinion; for "the killing," as remarked by the court, "being but one element of the crime, is consistent with the prisoner's innocence of murder." A general unfavorable opinion of the prisoner as a bad man has been held sufficient *per se* to disqualify a juror;⁶ and the same has been held as to the entertaining of such an opinion in regard to persons in general when charged with crime,⁷ or in regard to violence and crime in general.⁸

² *Cancemi v. People*, 16 N. Y. 501; *Fahnestock v. State*, 23 Ind. 10; *Moses v. State*, 10 Humph. 456; *Cotton v. State*, 31 Miss. 504; *Red v. State*, 37 Miss. 296; *Olive v. State*, 11 Neb. 1. But where the declaration of the juror was to the effect that, while it would require evidence to change his opinion, the same would readily yield to evidence, he was held to be competent. *Guetig v. State*, 66 Ind. 94.

³ *People v. Gehr*, 8 Cal. 359. And see *Sam v. State*, 13 Sm. & M. 190.

⁴ Where the juror entertains a decided opinion as to guilt or innocence, it is held to be unnecessary, and in fact improper, to ask him whether it, (the opinion,) is that the prisoner is guilty or innocent. *People v. Shelledy*, 8 Iowa, 503; *People v. Williams*, 6 Cal. 206.

⁵ See *O'Brien v. People*, 48 Barb. 274; *State v. Thompson*, 9 Iowa, 549; *Cargen v. People*, 39 Mich. 549.

⁶ *Lowenberg v. People*, 27 N. Y. 336.

⁷ *Monroe v. State*, 23 Texas, 210; *People v. Mahoney*, 18 Cal. 180; *Person v. State*, 14 Ga. 710; G. C. M. O. 44, Dept. of Cal., 1883. Otherwise, however, where such opinion has become so fixed as apparent to bias the mind. See *Willis v. State*, 12 Ga. 444.

⁸ *People v. Reynolds*, 16 Cal. 129.

Davis v. Hunter, 7 Ala. (N. S.) 135.

An opinion upon a question of *law* involved in a case will not disqualify a juror or member, according as it does or does not amount to an opinion upon the guilt or innocence of the accused. A juror or member who was of opinion that the act charged was not a crime or offence would properly be held incompetent on challenge.¹ So a fixed opinion that a statute under which a party is indicted is unconstitutional must necessarily disqualify a juror, since it involves a conclusion that he is guilty in law;² but an opinion that the statute is constitutional and in force has been held not to affect the juror's competency since it is merely an opinion upon an abstract legal question. Similarly it was held no objection to jurors that they thought the law under which the prisoner was accused "a good law for, as the court remark, "such opinion has no tendency to prove or disprove the issue."⁴

Where a juror had no opinion, or only a hypothetical opinion on the merits, it was held that the fact that he had made up his mind as to the *punishment* proper to be inflicted on the prisoner in case of a conviction, did not affect his competency.⁵

Effect of personal disclaimer of bias in connection with opinion. The assertion of a juror under examination that his opinion in regard to the case is not such as to influence his action on the trial will properly carry considerable weight except where such opinion is one of a decided character, as when it will require evidence to remove it. In that event his personal declaration that the opinion will not bias his judgment or affect his verdict, will not in general, as it has frequently been held, be of itself alone to remove the objection taken to him on challenge.⁶ Similarly, while a disclaimer of bias by a challenge

1. 1 Bishop, C. P. § 917; Com. v. Buzzell, 16 Pick. 153.

2. Com. v. Austin, 7 Gray, 51; Pierce v. State, 13 N. H. 536.

3. Com. v. Abbott, 13 Met. 120.

4. McNall v. McClure, 1 Lans. 32. And see U. S. v. Noelle, Blatchford, 554.

5. State v. Bill, 15 La. An. 114. And see Com. v. Buzzell, 16 Pick. 155.

6. Sam v. State, 13 Sm. & M. 194; Morton v. State, 1 Kans. Armistead v. Com., 11 Leigh, 663; Goodwin v. Blachley, 4 Ind. Willis v. State, 12 Ga. 447; Hudgins v. State, 2 Kelly, 176; People v. Gehr, 8 Cal. 362; Olive v. State, 11 Neb. 1; Greenfield v. People, N. Y. 277. It is "not to be considered as any disparagement of

number of a court-martial will always be deferred to with respect, will properly fail to convince the court of his neutrality in the case where it appears that he has recently entertained decided views concerning the criminality of the accused.¹

Opinion Formed but not Expressed. In the great majority of cases of challenge for opinion, the opinion entertained by the juror has naturally also been expressed, and thus in fact is known to exist. In a comparatively few cases only has the question come to be raised whether the mere formation of an opinion, without its being expressed at all, will affect the juror's competency. In *Callender's case*,² (tried in 1800,) it was held by Chief Justice J. that the juror "must have delivered as well as formed an opinion." This doctrine was affirmed upon Burr's trial, (in 1807,) by Chief Justice Marshall in the following terms:—"The law is, that a man must not only have formed but declared an opinion in order to exclude him from serving on the jury."³ The same view has been taken in some of the subsequent cases; the ground being mainly that persons are more apt to be tenacious of and to abide by expressed opinions than those which remain unexpressed.⁴ The opposite, however, *viz.*:—that an opinion once fully formed in the mind, though not stated, will qualify equally as if declared,—has been held in other and numerous cases.⁵ Upon principle, the latter ruling certainly seems the one to be preferred. It is the formation of the opinion which is the material and principal process; the expression is but incidental. The formation constitutes the prejudgment and preoccupation of the mind; and if the opinion is already decided, it scarcely becomes more so by being expressed.

fides of the juror" that he should be held incompetent notwithstanding such a declaration. *Willis v. State*. In *Hudgins v. State*, the court offer a natural explanation which, no doubt, accounts for many instances in which this declaration is made, in good faith, by jurors:—"The juror may think himself free from bias or prejudice because he harbors no prejudice or personal ill will toward the accused."

See DIGEST, 71; G. C. M. O. 66 of 1879.

Wharton's State Trials, 697.

1 Burr's Trial, 44.

2 Boardman v. Wood, 3 Verm. 570; Noble v. People, Breese, 30. See also State v. Morea, 2 Ala. (N. S.) 277.

3 State v. Potter, 18 Conn. 172, and cases cited; Com. v. Buzzell, 10 Mass. 155; Rathbun v. People, 21 Wend. 509; State v. Johnson, 10 Miss. 399.

Some habitually silent persons do not readily assert their convictions; and some who are secretive brood over them till they become even the more intense for not being uttered. Some again hesitate to declare their sentiments concerning the acts of others, either from an aversion to gossip and scandal, or from a sense of honor and justice which will not permit them to do a possible injury in a case of any doubt, or in one in which there may be extenuating circumstances. Thus the better reasons are deemed to be clearly on the side of holding that the *expression* of the opinion should not be regarded as essential to disqualify the juror or member of court-martial, upon challenge, where the same is admitted or clearly shown to have been deliberately formed and to be of a decided character.

Opinion Formed or Expressed in the Preferring of Charges. The subject of challenges for opinion may be concluded by noticing the class of military cases in which the fact that a member of the court-martial was the officer who *preferred the charges* has been urged as ground of objection, generally on the part of the accused. In repeated cases, published in General Orders, where it appeared that a member had preferred or initiated the charge, and had done so, not ministerially under the orders of a superior, but after a personal investigation of the facts, and was thus actually the accuser,¹ a challenge offered to him has been held valid; and, where the court has ruled otherwise their ruling has been disapproved.²

The objection in this class of cases is aggravated where the member challenged as having preferred the charges is also the person primarily affected by the offence committed,—as when

1. See construction of the terms "accuser and prosecutor," (in Art. 75.) in Chapter VI.; also DIERST, 70.

2. "It is difficult to believe that an officer who has made a preliminary examination into alleged facts, and has so far satisfied himself of the guilt of the accused as, in effect, to prefer charges against him," (involving here grave offences) "can bring to the trial of the case a mind so free from bias as to ensure to the accused the impartial trial to which he has an undoubted right." G. C. M. O. 82 of 1868. (Gen. Grant.) The deliberate preferring of charges by the member was "a most unequivocal expression of opinion." G. C. M. O. 1, Dept. of Texas, 1880; (Gen. Ord.) And see G. O. 16, Dept. of the Ohio, 186; Do. 12, Dept. of Ind., 1868; Do. 20, Dept. of Arizona, 1870; Do. 18, Dept. of the South, 1873; Do. 5, Dept. of the Gulf, 1873; Do. 1, Dept. of Dakota, 1874; Do. 18, 13, 1875; G. C. M. O. 13, Dept. of the

he charge is that his own order was disobeyed by the accused,¹ or that disrespect was shown him,² or that his property was taken,³ &c.,—especially as, in such cases, he is also generally the principal, or a material, witness.⁴ Here, indeed, an additional objection—that of personal prejudice or hostility—may combine with that of having formed or expressed an opinion.

Personal Prejudice and Hostility. Under this head are intended to be included:—1, Decided prejudice not amounting to positive enmity; 2, Feelings of actual enmity, animosity, malice or confirmed ill will.

Personal prejudice. The term “prejudice,” as here employed, is to be distinguished from prejudice in its original sense of prejudgment. In *this* sense it has already been considered in treating of *opinion*: in its present sense it has reference to a sentiment in regard to the accused personally, *i. e.* as an individual or as an officer or soldier.⁵

The personal prejudice under consideration may be proved by evidence of any decided unfriendly or unfavorable language, opinion, action, &c., of the juror or member challenged. Thus it was held good cause of exception to a member that he had applied abusive and degrading epithets to the accused, (a soldier,)

Platte, 1873; Do. 10, 71, Dept. of Texas, 1873; Do. 44, Id., 1875; Memo., Dept. of the Col., June 19, 1874; Do. 88, Dept. of the Mo., 1883; Do. 13, Dept. of the East, 1884. See also, in this connection, G. O. 37, Dept. of Kans., 1864, where the fact that the same court had previously ruled to be preferred against the accused the very charge upon which he was arraigned was held valid ground of challenge to *all* the members, equally, as being “evidence of the formation of an opinion” on the merits, and indeed “tantamount to an expression of that opinion.”

On the trial of Col. T. H. Cushing in 1811, (Printed Trial, p. 7,) the accused objected to a member on the ground that he had intended to refer charges against the accused identical in part with those in the indictment. The member admitting the fact, the objection was sustained.

¹ DIGEST, 70-71.

² See case in G. C. M. O. 13, Dept. of the Platte, 1873; also Trial of Lieut. Stanley, U. S. N., p. 323.

³ Simmons § 507.

⁴ DIGEST, 70; G. C. M. O. 51, Dept. of the Col., 1881; Do. 19, 1882.

⁵ As to the effect of personal prejudices in biasing the mind of a juror, *Mann v. Glover*, 2 Green, 203.

on the occasion of his arrest.¹ So, a decided expression of opinion by a member as to the unfitness of the accused, (an officer,) for any official position was held to charge him with sufficient prejudice to constitute ground of challenge.² Prejudice may also be implied from the relation of the member toward the subject matter of the charge, as where the violence or other misconduct for which the accused is to be tried was aimed at the member himself or resulted to his injury.³

Whether expressed or implied, the prejudice must be of a definite and positive character. A general objection interposed by the accused to a member on account of "some unpleasant circumstances growing out of their official relations" was held in Gen. Twigg's case to be indefinite and insufficient.⁴

Prejudice of commanding officer. Simmons,⁵ (who is repeated by some of the later authorities,⁶) states in general terms that challenges have been admitted to members as being the commanding officers of accused persons, on the supposition that they might as such be prejudiced through "previous imper-

1. G. O. 47, Dept. of Dakota, 1874.

2. G. O. 11, Dept. of Cal., 1865. That the objection must be *personal* is illustrated in a case, published in G. O. 72, Dept. of the East, 1866, of a volunteer soldier, where the action of the court in allowing a challenge to a member on the "absurd" ground that he had a known and avowed prejudice against volunteer soldiers in general, was disapproved by the reviewing authority. So, on the Trial by Military Commission in 1864, of Milligan and others, page 73, an objection interposed by Milligan to a member who was a volunteer colonel from Mass.,—"because he is from a locality where there are extreme prejudices against Western men, and he is likely to be influenced by those prejudices," was, of course, disallowed. See in this connection the case referred to in DIGEST, 77, where the fact that a member had stated that he did not consider the accused officer a gentleman was held a good ground of objection, one of the charges to be tried being "Conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman." The sufficiency of this ground, however, may well be questioned.

On the trial of Capt. Kelly of the British navy in 1802, (Printed Trials, p. 3-4,) the court sustained a challenge by the accused to a member who had sat on a previous court-martial held for the trial of two sailors of his, (the accused's,) ship, which court, in its judgment, had "conveyed a censure" on the accused.

3. DIGEST, 71.

4. G. O. 4 of 1858.

5. § 510.

6. De Hart, 122; Benét, 73; Coppée, 65..

fact or *ex parte* knowledge of the circumstances inducing the trial." It is quite clear, however, that the mere fact that a member is the commanding officer—colonel, captain, &c.—of the accused is no foundation for a valid challenge.¹ Other circumstances must be shown fixing *actual* prejudice on the commander before an objection taken to him can properly be held sufficient. In our practice the principal instances in which a challenge to a member who was a commanding officer has been sustained have been those of cases in which either he was the preferrer of the charge or real accuser,² or those in which other causes combined to disqualify him—as that he was a material witness for the prosecution, or the very person against whom the offences of the accused has been committed.³

That it is in general inexpedient that the immediate commander of an accused, officer or soldier, should be placed upon a court ordered for his trial, is remarked by Simmons and subsequent writers.⁴ In small commands, however, it is sometimes unavoidable.

Personal hostility, enmity, or malice. This is a valid ground of challenge equally in the civil and the military practice. In a case in Georgia⁵ the court observe:—"The law requires that jurors should be * * * not liable to an objection on account of malice, ill will, hatred, revenge, * * * or the like." On Burr's trial,⁶ a certain grand juror was objected to for that he "entertained a bitter personal animosity against" the defendant; and a sentiment of this nature being admitted by the juror to exist, the challenge was sustained. That the feeling must be a personal one, directed at the individual, and that it need have

1. DIGEST, 71; G. O. 73, Dept. of the South, 1873.

2. See G. O. 13, Dept. of the Potomac, 1867; Do. 16, Dept. of the Ohio, 1865; Ives, 91. Simmons (§ 510) writes that a challenge of a member as being a commanding officer should "obviously be allowed" where he has "taken an active part in promoting the prosecution or in bringing forward the charge." See G. C. M. O. 18, Dept. of the East, 1884.

3. See Trial of Lieut. Stanley, (U. S. N.) p. 323.

4. See—with Simmons § 510—Harcourt, 110; Bombay R., 7; De Hart, 122.

5. *Monroe v. State*, 5 Ga. 142.

6. Vol. 1, p. 41-43.

no connection with the facts of the particular case, has also specifically held.¹

Among military authorities, Tytler² mentions "malicious and hostile enmity expressed by word or deed against the prisoner as one of the "causes of challenge impossible to be overruled" and other later authorities notice the same as among the legal grounds of exception.³

The existence of the hostile feeling is generally shown by the language or acts of the challenged juror or member—his having charged the challenging party with a grave crime; his having publicly libelled him;⁴ his having initiated against him a malicious suit or prosecution,⁵ or grave charges on personal grounds; his having had a serious quarrel or difficulty with him in a personal or official capacity; his having been foiled or antagonized by him in a contest for appointment, promotion, or the like; his having been in *any* manner injured by the challenging party and consequently cherishing revenge or bitterness against him &c. In an adjudged case⁶ the point is noticed that he may once have felt but no longer entertained will not properly affect the competency of the juror.

Interest. Personal interest—pecuniary or other—in the result of a trial is a cause of challenge which has been chiefly confined to jurors in civil actions. The principle involved, however, is applicable to criminal cases; so that a juror or member who has a direct personal interest in the fact or question involved to be decided, *i. e.* to whom any reasonably certain substantial advantage or detriment may result from the event of the proceeding, ought not, if objected to, to be permitted to sit on the court. This ground of challenge has been recognized by

1. *Brittain v. Allen*, 2 Dev. 120.

2. Page 225.

3. See *Simmons* § 503; *Kennedy*, 54; *Maltby*, 30; *Macomb v. O'Brien*, 238, 239; *Ives*, 91.

4. *Palmer v. Bogan*, *Cheves*, 52.

5. *Lewis v. Few*, *Anthon*, 75.

6. *Co. Litt.*, 157, b.; *People v. Bodine*, 1 Denio, 305.

7. See *Coppée*, 66. As where the member was the very person against whom the offence had been committed. *G. C. M. O.* 13, *of the Platte*, 1873.

8. *People v. Vermilyea*, 7 Cow. 369.

military writers,¹ but, except in a single instance, it is one that is most rarely urged.

Claim to promotion. This instance is that of the objection sometimes taken by an accused officer to a member, that the latter will become entitled to promotion on account of seniority upon the accused being dismissed the service.² This objection is especially apposite in cases where a sentence of dismissal is mandatory upon a conviction of the offence charged. It may, however, also properly be made in a case where a dismissal may legally be imposed in the discretion of the court, and where, in view of the nature of the charge, such sentence is a probable one. It may also not improperly be taken in a case where a sentence of suspension for a certain term would be a reasonable and appropriate punishment for the offence, and where within such term a right to promotion, by reason of the compulsory retirement of a common senior, or otherwise, would accrue to the member if the accused were to be deprived of the same by the execution of such sentence.

Advancement in files. That a member will by the dismissal of the accused be merely advanced one "file" or number in the line of seniority toward promotion will in the majority of cases be too remote an interest to form a valid objection.³ Cases however may occur in which such interest is not thus remote, and the court may in its discretion properly sustain the exception,—as where the number to which the member will be advanced is the *first* in the line of promotion to a higher grade; or where it is the *second*, and the senior officer at the head of the list is soon to be retired, or, by reason of the compulsory retirement of a common senior or otherwise, to be promoted.

Relationship. No instance is known in which this ground of challenge—familiar to the common law⁴ and recognized in

1. O'Brien, 238; De Hart, 119.

2. Clode, M. L., 127; Benét, 73; Coppée, 66; Ives, 90; DIGEST, 71.

3. DIGEST, 71.

4. "For that the law presumeth that one kinsman doth favor another more a stranger." Co. Litt., 157, a. And at an early period the rule was adopted that the relationship must be within the ninth degree to exclude a juror. Finch's Law, 401; 1 Chitty, C. L., 541; 3 Black. Com., 53; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 901; Simmons § 504. This is still the general rule

a verdict, or in a vote upon a verdict, (as where the jurors divided,) at a previous trial of the same case, he is *necessary* incompetent to sit in the pending case and will be set aside on challenge. This, "not," to cite the language of Chief Justice Marshall on Burr's Trial,¹ that he is "suspected of personal prejudices, but" that "he has formed and delivered an opinion and is therefore deemed unfit to be a juror in the cause."

Otherwise, where there was no verdict or vote upon a verdict at the previous trial,—as where the case was dismissed by the court without proceeding to verdict. In such a case the juror is not challengeable "for principal cause,"² though, if his mind has been in any manner biased,—as by his having heard evidence, arguments, &c., he will be liable to challenge "for favor."³

Similarly an officer of the army, who had been a member of a court-martial on a certain trial, would properly be excluded from acting upon a new trial for the same offence where one had been ordered or granted;⁴ and this whether or not the former court had jurisdiction of the case, or whether the proceedings of the former trial were legal or illegal. Thus Attorney General Grundy, in holding that the proceedings in a certain naval court-martial had been invalidated by a fatal omission therein, and that, in order to the trial of the accused, a new court must be organized, adds:—"The officers who sat on the former should all be excluded from the second trial. They have formed and expressed opinions upon the case which would disqualify them from serving as jurors in a criminal case in a common law court; and I can see no reason why officers under the same circumstances should not be excluded from a court-martial, especially as they are the triers of the facts as well as the law."⁵

But where the proceedings were terminated before a finding was reached, as by the number being reduced below a minimum,

1. Vol. 1, p. 416. And see *Herndon v. Bradshaw*, 4 Bibb, 45; *Briggs v. Byrd*, 12 Ire. 377; *State v. Fox*, 1 Dutch. 595; *State v. Benton*, 2 Dev. & Bat. 213.

2. *Durell v. Mosher*, 8 Johns. 445. And see *Atkinson v. Allen*, 18 Vt. 621.

3. See *Whitner v. Hamlin*, 12 Fla. 18, (a case deemed otherwise of doubtful authority.)

4. And so would a member or members who had acted on "a previous court by which the same accused had been tried for the same act, though under a different charge." DIGEST, 72.

5. 111 Opins., 398.

entry of a *nolle prosequi*, or because of some military policy, an officer who was a member would not properly be held upon challenge from the subsequent court or trial, as it appeared that the effect of the previous investigation had been so to bias his judgment that he no longer stood impartial between the parties.

Former trial of a different case involving the same or similar question. In the criminal law, neither the fact that a juror has served as such on a previous trial of the same case for a separate instance of the same offence or for a similar offence;¹ nor that he has taken part in the trial and conviction of another and distinct offender separately indicted for an offence of the same character;² nor even that he has similarly acted in the trial of an accomplice jointly indicted for the same offence but who has been permitted to sever for trial,³—is held to be a "principal cause" of challenge, *i. e.* necessarily to disqualify the juror. A challenge "to the favor," however, may be allowed in such cases, where it is satisfactorily shown that the juror, by reason of having heard the testimony on the first trial, has, otherwise, actually become biased by an opinion for or against the present defendant.⁴

In cases of this class at military law a similar test is to be employed. While it is certainly not *per se* valid ground of challenge to a member that he has taken part in a previous trial of an accused for a like offence, or in a trial for the same offence of another soldier between whom and the present accused there had been criminal concert, yet if the previous hearing has induced the formation of an opinion as to the guilt or innocence of the accused, the member is of course properly subject to challenge.⁵

Having been a member of a previous court of inquiry. The fact that a member of the petit or trial jury in a criminal

Com. v. Hill, 4 Allen, 591; U. S. v. Watkins, 3 Cr. C., 443.

State v. Sheeley, 15 Iowa, 404.

U. S. v. Wilson, 1 Baldwin, 78; Adye, 174.

U. S. v. Wilson, *ante*.

Simmons § 513-9; Macomb, 31; De Hart, 121; Benét, 75.

An officer is not properly competent to sit on a court-martial, who, as a member of a previous *board of survey*, has joined in an opinion or vote unfavorable to the merits of the case to be tried.

was a member of the grand jury which found the issue at issue. It has uniformly been held to constitute conclusive ground for a principal challenge;¹ and so the fact that a member of a court-martial was a member of a court of inquiry previously held in the same case has been regarded at military law as a sound objection to the member.² Whether the objection is to be held valid where the court of inquiry only reported evidence as to the facts, or whether it expressed an opinion in the case, is a question as to which different views appear to have been entertained by military writers, but the weight of authority is in favor of the affirmative.³ Common sense and reason certainly concur. In the practice of American courts-martial the fact of having been a member of a previous court of inquiry by which the charges were investigated is uniformly treated as an objection in the nature of a challenge for "principal cause."⁴

If the investigation by the court of inquiry related not to the actual charges to be tried but to a similar matter or one involving a similar question, the member would properly be held subject to challenge according as such investigation had or not impressed upon him an opinion as to the merits of the case.⁵

Having served on a regimental court from which an appeal is taken. All the authorities, English and American, agree that in the case of an appeal, (taken in our law under the 30th Article of war,) from a regimental to a general court, a member who has acted on the former court will necessarily be excluded from the latter, upon challenge as for "principal cause." This for the reason that the regimental court, in every such case, has not only formed but expressed a specific opinion and conclusion.

1. *Stewart v. State*, 15 Ohio, 159; *Barlow v. State*, 2 Blatchford, 114; *Rice v. State*, 16 Ind. 298; *Gillespie v. State*, 8 Yerg. 507; *State v. Benton*, 2 Dev. & Bat. 213.

2. See authorities referred to in next note.

3. That is to say, of those who have expressed a decided opinion on the subject. See *Simmons* § 512; *McNaghten*, 177; *Hough*, (P.) 77; *De Hart*, 120; *Coppée*, 66; *Benét*, 75; *Harwood*, 68; *Digest*, 7; *Hough*, (P., 645, note,) well observes—"Whether they give an opinion matters not; every man *thinks* an opinion."

4. See G. O. 11, Dept. of Cal., 1866.

5. See *Tytler*, 223.

6. *Tytler*, 224; *Adye*, 173; *McArthur*, 275; *Delafons*, 137; *Hough*, (P., 645, note,) *Simmons* § 508; *De Hart*, 119; *Benét*, 75; *Coppée*, 66.

Challenging a Material Witness. The fact that a juror has been named by either party as a material witness in the same proceeding is held to be a "principal cause" of challenge.¹ This is the ground that a witness is likely to be a partisan and either have a personal prejudice or a decided opinion in the case.² Similarly, it is believed to be in general a valid exception to a member of a court-martial that he is to be a material witness to the merits:³ otherwise, where he is to be called upon simply to testify as to character,⁴ or as to some interlocutory point not material to the main issue. It is not essential, however, that the member should have been formally summoned.⁵ If it is the fact that he is relied upon and is to be used as a material witness, he is equally subject to challenge whether he has been summoned or not. Otherwise a party, by avoiding summoning his witness, might secure his remaining on the court, to his own undue advantage and the detriment of public justice.⁶

If a member has given material testimony on a previous trial or investigation of the same case,⁷ or on a previous trial or investigation of another case or matter of the same or a similar nature,⁸ the question whether he should be allowed to sit in the pending case will depend on the weight of the evidence which may be offered to show either that he is prejudiced or that he has formed an opinion; the exception being in the nature of a challenge "to the favor."

While the mere fact that an officer is to be a material witness

1. Co. Litt., 157, a; Com. v. Joliffe, 7 Watts, 585.

2. Com. v. Joliffe, *ante*.

3. See Simmons § 511; D'Aguilar, 102; Bombay R., 12; De Hart, 3; Benét, 74; Coppée, 66; DIGEST, 70. [A somewhat conflicting view in G. C. M. O. 134, Dept. of Dakota, 1884, is, in the opinion of the author, too broadly stated.] *A fortiori* where he is the *prosecuting* witness.

4. See authorities cited in last note; also Com. v. Joliffe, 7 Watts, 585.

5. The mere fact that the member was an important or material witness in the case, (whether or not formally summoned,) was held sufficient ground of challenge in cases in G. O. 4, Dept. of the West, 1861; G. O. 20, Dept. of Arizona, 1870; Do. 18, Dept. of Dakota, 1875; also Trial of Lieut. Stanley, (U. S. N.,) p. 323. And see Pipon & Col., 51.

6. In Com. v. Joliffe, 7 Watts, 586, it is remarked by the court that a party should purposely omit to summon a juror whom he designed to use as a witness, this fact "might be a cause of challenge to the favor."

See Harper v. Kean, 11 S. & R., 298.

See Delafons, 136; Hough, (P.) 684.

in a case to be tried does not *disqualify* him from sitting member of the court,¹ it is agreed by the authorities that should not be detailed as such if it can be avoided without se prejudice to the service.² But in the absence of a challenge cannot, as heretofore indicated, be excused by the court.

If a member is called upon in the midst of a trial to be terial witness, he may then be challenged by the party a whom he is to testify, provided it was not known to this pa the outset, that he was to be used as a witness.³ But if not langed, the court has no power to relieve him, nor can he r himself; the order of the convening authority being nec for such a purpose.⁴

Miscellaneous Grounds. Certain other grounds of lence which have been recognized as valid in the civil pr may here be noticed. These are—that the juror has been pered with;⁵ that he has been bribed;⁶ that he is charact by a moral obliquity;⁷ that he will not convict on circumst evidence;⁸ that he has taken an oath or assumed an oblig as a member of an association or combination which preven standing indifferent between the parties;⁹ that he has c entious scruples in regard to the imposition of the death pe which will affect his verdict;¹⁰ that he does not speak Engl that he has not sufficient intelligence.¹¹

1. See authorities cited in next note; also *Bell v. State*, 44 Ala.

2. *Sullivan*, 58; *Simmons* § 511; *Hickman*, 17, 246; *Clode*, 127; *O'Brien*, 239; *De Hart*, 123; *Benét*, 74; *G. O.* 11, *Dept.* 1 N. West, 1864. And see *Hacker's Trial*, 5 *How. State T.*, 1181.

3. See *ante*.

4. *DIGEST*, 73.

5. *Co. Litt.*, 157, b; *Knight v. Freeport*, 13 *Mass.* 217.

6. *Co. Litt.*, 157 b; *U. S. v. Morris*, 1 *Curtis C.* 35; *Tytler, Maltby*, 30; *O'Brien*, 238.

7. *McFadden v. Com.*, 23 *Pa. St.* 12.

8. *Gates v. People*, 14 *Ills.* 433; *Jones v. State*, 57 *Miss.* 684; *v. Pritchard*, 15 *Nev.* 74.

9. *Fletcher v. State*, 6 *Humph.* 249; *Com. v. Livermore*, 4 *Gray People v. Reyes*, 5 *Cal.* 347.

10. *U. S. v. Cornell*, 2 *Mason*, 104; *U. S. v. Wilson*, 1 *Baldwi U. S. v. Ware*, 2 *Cranch C.*, 477; and many cases in the *State re* The rule is held to be the same where the death penalty is discreti *viz.* where the statute enjoins death or some lesser penalty, as imp ment in a penitentiary. *Gross v. State*, 2 *Carter*, 329.

11. *Fisher v. The City*, 4 *Brewst.* 395.

12. *State v. Roundtree*, 32 *La. An.* 1144.

None of these grounds are likely to arise in a military case. Should indeed an exception in the nature of any of those mentioned be taken before a court-martial, the determination, under the Article, of its "relevancy and validity" may be assisted by reference to the authorities here cited under the similar subject.

Concluding Remark—Liability to Challenge not Disqualification. In the course of this Chapter, jurors and members of courts-martial against whom valid causes of objection exist, have, in some instances, been said to be "incompetent" and "disqualified." These words are frequently employed in the reports and treatises as convenient terms, but it must not be inferred from their use that it is intended that the juror or member is, by reason of his liability to challenge, disqualified to act in the court, or that his acting thereon impairs the legality of the proceedings. In an adjudged case in New York,¹ it is held:—"A challenge to a juror does not go to the jurisdiction of the tribunal: though a juror may be incompetent as such, the trial is not invalidated." And in a case in North Carolina² the court observe:—"There was good cause of challenge to the juror. But that does not vitiate the trial: * * * by not making the objection the party waived it." So, at military law, where the party entitled, under Art. 88, to object waives, or fails to take, his objection, or where the same, being made, is improperly overruled by the court, —while the reviewing authority may, and, in the latter contingency, generally will, *disapprove* the proceedings, the legal validity of the finding and sentence is, in neither case, affected.³

1. *Clark v. Van Vracken*, 20 Barb. 281.

2. *Briggs v. Byrd*, 12 Ire. 381.

3. Case of Lieut. Keyes, DIGEST, 72; Do., XV Opins. At. Gen., 2; Do., 15 Ct. Cl., 533; Opin. of At. Gen., in Lieut. Armstrong's case, of June 28, 1882. That an accused does not, by a plea of *guilty*, give any advantage to which he may be entitled by reason of an improper disallowance by the court of a challenge interposed by him to a member,—see G. C. M. O. 88, Dept. of Dakota, 1878.

CHAPTER XV.

ORGANIZATION—ARRAIGNMENT—CONTINUANCE—NOLLE PROSEQUI.

In this Chapter will be considered the subjects of—I, The Organization of the Court by the swearing and qualifying of the members; II, The Arraignment of the Accused, and herein Standing mute; III, Continuance and Adjournment; IV, *Nolle Prosequi* or Withdrawal.

I. THE SWEARING OF THE COURT.

The accused (and judge advocate) having fully exercised, or been afforded an opportunity to exercise, the right of challenge of members of the court accorded by Art. 88 of the code, the members, (if at least five in number,) proceed to complete the organization as a court, for the trial, by formally qualifying themselves as prescribed in Art. 84.¹

The Official Oath. This Article is as follows:—"The judge advocate shall administer to each member of the court, before the proceed upon any trial, the following oath, which shall also be taken by all members of regimental and garrison courts-martial: 'You, A. B., do swear that you will well and truly try and determine, according to evidence, the matter now before you between the United States of America and the prisoner to be tried, and that you will duly administer justice, without partiality, favor, or affection, according to the provisions of the rules and articles for the government of the armies of the United States.'

1. Art. 48 of the Code of James II, from which our Article is in part derived, directs that the members "shall take an oath for the due administration of justice according to these Articles, or, (*where these Articles not assign any special punishment,*) according to their consciences, to the best of their understandings, and the custom of war in the like cases."

... and if any doubt should arise, not explained by said articles, according to your conscience, the best of your understanding, the custom of war in like cases; and you do further swear that you will not divulge the sentence of the court until it shall be published by the proper authority; neither will you disclose or discover vote or opinion of any particular member of the court-martial, nor be required to give evidence thereof, as a witness, by a court of justice, in a due course of law. So help you God.' ”

The Administering of the Oath—To be repeated on every trial. This oath, being required to be administered to the court before proceeding “upon any trial,” must be taken anew before the trial of each and every case tried by the same court.¹ No such procedure is recognized as swearing a court collectively at the outset for all the cases to be tried by it. The court must be qualified separately for every case precisely as if it were the only case to be adjudicated; such qualifying being essential preliminary to its being authorized to “try and determine” the same.²

The accused to be present. The Article does not require that the oath should be administered in the presence of the accused, and it is not *essential* that he should be present when the oath is administered. Being, however, already legally present for the purpose of exercising his rights under Art. 88, he properly continues to be present at the qualifying of the court; and it is a well-established usage of the service, specifically recognized in the Army Regulations—par. 914—that the oath should be administered in his presence.

Form of administering. The form of administering the oath is as follows: The Members and the Judge Advocate having taken their places, the latter reads aloud the form, prefacing it

See O'Brien, 246; De Hart, 129; Macomb, 34; Benét, 80; Hard, 76; Army Regs., par. 888; G. O. 60 of 1873. And compare, also, a similar construction of a corresponding provision of the *militia law* of Mass., *Coffin v. Wilbour*, 7 Pick. 150.

A contrary view expressed by Atty. Gen. Berrien in 1829, (II Opins., 100) on the authority of Tytler, (p. 230,) was dissented from by Atty. Gen. Taney in 1831, (II Opins., 460.) Tytler's view has been long since abandoned in the British practice. See Kennedy, 45; Harcourt, *Simmons* § 440, 521, 527.

See DIGEST, 67; *Simmons* § 440.

by addressing the members, by name and rank as given in the Order, as follows—'You, A. B., Colonel, &c., C. D., Major, &c., E. F., Captain, &c., (and so on,) do, severally, swear that you will well and truly try and determine,' &c.; each member—though this is not an essential feature—properly keeping his right hand raised during the reading.' No Bible or copy of the Evangelists is used in our service.

To be taken by every member separately. The Article requires the administering of the oath to "each member." While all the members present are sworn together at the same time, they are not sworn collectively, *i. e.* as a court or body, but separately and individually as members. So, a member not present at the organization but taking his seat later in the day or on another day must be then separately sworn; and so must a member subsequently added to the court by the convening authority.

Members may affirm. It is declared in Sec. 1, Rev. Stat. that "in determining the meaning of the revised statutes, * * a requirement of an oath shall be deemed complied with by making affirmation in judicial form." Any member therefore who objects to being sworn may be affirmed; the word "affirm" in the place of "swear" being used in addressing him, as his name occurs in the order of rank, thus: 'You, A. B., C. D., &c., do severally swear, and you, E. F., do affirm, &c.' In affirming the reference to the Deity at the end of the oath may properly be omitted.

Oath not otherwise to be varied. A member, however, would not be entitled to have the form of the oath further varied as to himself on the ground that, as expressed in the Article administered in practice, it was not binding upon a person of his religious belief. Every officer of the army, whatever his religious opinions, accepts, on entering the service, the provisions of the military code as obligatory upon him and he cannot refuse to undertake or to abide by the prescribed obligation in the

1. See O'Brien, 140; Macomb, 32; De Hart, 128. The two named writers state that the members repeat the words of the oath to the judge advocate. This, however, is not now the practice. The members only incline the head at the end of the ceremony, as an act of assent.

2. Digest of G. O. No. 50 Dept. of the East, 1864.

2e. A member, however, may properly be allowed to *ac-*
ny the ceremony by any form, not inconsistent with the
 tions of the Article, by which the oath may in his estimate
 ndered more obligatory as to himself. Thus a Roman Cath-
 may take in his hand, &c., a copy of the Evangelists, or an
 elite a copy of the Pentateuch.¹

he Nature of the Obligation. The oath, which some
 ers have remarked upon as investing the court with a two-
 apacity assimilated to that of judge and jury,² contains several
 1st engagements which may briefly be noticed here, to be
 rated from time to time hereafter.

ese engagements are :—

To “try and determine according to evidence.” Here
 member binds himself not to be influenced by any private
 ledge or information which he may have in regard to the
 but to decide it by the testimony, oral and written, which
 e duly laid before the court.³

To try, &c., “the matter now before” the court. By
 words the members engage to pass upon the specific of-
 : alleged against the accused, of which they will properly
 been advised by having had the charges read or laid before
 as heretofore indicated. Moreover, having thus bound
 elves to pass upon the particular charges presented, they
 t, after they have once been sworn, legally entertain new
 dditional” charges or specifications setting forth further
 es. Such new offences must be made the subject of a sep-
 trial by the same court, or be referred for trial to a separate
 ; or the proceedings before the original court may be dis-
 ued, and the court be re-organized, and re-sworn to try all
 charges old and new.⁴

ee Clode, M. L., 126 ; Simmons § 447.

ee Kennedy, 9 ; Simmons § 440 ; Benét, 78.

ee Adye, 187 ; G. O. 21, Dept. of the Ohio, 1866 ; G. C. M. O.
 pt. of Texas, 1874. Compare *Rex v. Rosser*, 7 C. & P. 648.

testimony must be that of course which is introduced upon the
 lar trial. The court cannot, under its oath, allow its conclusions
 ffected by evidence taken at another trial. G. O. 29, Dept. of
 tte, 1869.

mmmons § 415, 458 ; Griffiths, 61 ; De Hart, 102 ; Benét, 91 ; Di-
 8 ; G. C. M. O. 39 of 1867 ; G. O. 13, Northern Dept., 1864.

3. To "duly administer justice without partial favor or affection." Where the proper challenges have been duly passed upon, the members will be prepared to proceed to administer justice with strict impartiality. If any member, however, is at this stage conscious of any such partiality, favor or affection as would materially influence his judgment in the case he should apply to the convening authority to be relieved, since he could not properly take the oath.

4. To administer justice, &c., "according to" the Articles of war. The member here undertakes to administer justice, not according to his own private views of justice or his personal opinion as to what the law should be, but in strict compliance with the actual statutory provisions of the military code relating to the offence or offences charged.¹ He thus engages not to convict unless the offence as charged is within the definition or scope of the article under which the charge is laid, and to adjudge only such punishment as the article may authorize.

5. In case of doubt, to administer justice according to his conscience, best understanding, and the custom of war. In certain cases the Articles of war fail fully to define the offence made punishable, and in most cases do not prescribe a particular sentence to be imposed in any event but leave the punishment to the discretion of the court. In such cases, in "doubt," the member will be guided by his "conscience," (i.e., his moral sense, or natural feeling of justice,*) and his "understanding," (or intellectual faculty,) in determining whether the accused was actuated by the guilty *animus* essential to the offence charged, and in estimating the amount of criminality involved in his act and thus the measure of punishment adequate therefor. He will also, where necessary or appropriate, recur to the customs of war or military usage, as indicating whether certain acts are to be considered as constituting a certain offence, whether a certain defence is to be regarded as valid and sufficient, whether a particular punishment is or not sanctioned by the practice of the service, &c.

The customs of the service have already been treated of in

¹ DUBOIS, MS. G. C. M. O. 41, Dept. of Texas, 1874.

² See O. BROWN 264.

nent part of the law military, and need not therefore be welt upon.

Not to divulge the sentence, or the votes or opinions of members. This—the “obligation of secrecy”—was used into the oath at an early period,¹ the purpose of its on being described to be to protect the members from such ment or other prejudice as might ensue upon their personal on the court being made known, and thus the better to their independence and promote the ends of justice.² A r purpose might well have been to prevent—in case of con- 1—the judgment of the court coming to the knowledge of cused, and of other persons perhaps implicated with him, e moment at which it would be legal to proceed with the ion of the sentence, thus guarding against escapes and ating the efficient administration of the punishment.

obligation, how violated. The Article, in imposing obligation, had no doubt mainly in view disclosures made in sation, or otherwise personally and extrajudicially, by the ers. The violations, (few indeed in number,) which have ed have, however, mainly consisted in statements made in itten record of the trial; as a statement, for instance, that te was unanimous; or that all the members concurred in ding or sentence, or in a vote on a single charge or specifi- ; or that certain members designated composed the majority minority upon some *issue*,—as the issue upon a challenge ecial plea,—voted on in the course of the proceedings.³ disclosure of the vote or opinion of a member or members ny material *interlocutory question*, raised during the trial ssed upon by the court when cleared for deliberation, also be a substantial violation of the obligation assumed

¹ Clode, M. L., 130.

² Tyler, 227-9; 1 McArthur, 306-8; 1 Clode, (M. F.) 168; Stoc- Hist. Brit. Army, 50; Macomb, 33; Benét, 78. The obligation ared by Clode, (M. L., 130,) to that which, on grounds of public is imposed by their oath upon grand jurors.

³ e Sullivan, 78; Tytler, 324; Simmons § 615; De Hart, 179; Di- 8. It is no justification for a statement in the record of the vote sentence or other subject, that such statement was intended for and consideration of the reviewing officer only. G. C. M. O. t. of Texas, 1883.

by the oath although no ~~case~~ were joined upon such question. However, where the question thus acted on was quite immaterial to the merits of the case.¹

For a member to disclose his own vote or opinion was ~~not~~ ^{not} be equally at variance with his engagement as if he were to divulge that of another member.

While the members, by the last clause of the oath, are ~~not~~ ^{not} bound from divulging the sentence only, it is clear that a ~~member~~ ^{member} could not properly divulge the fact of an *acquittal*. A disclosure would not indeed be a violation of the oath, but ~~it~~ ^{it} would be a breach of official truthfulness, and would constitute an offence under Art. 62.

The obligation, how discharged. As to the sentence when the same has been promulgated in General Order otherwise made public by the proper superior authority, members are no longer bound to secrecy in regard to its terms to ~~each other~~ ^{each other} or private of the members, an individual member authorized to divulge the same only when "required to give evidence thereof" before "a court of justice." By the term "a court of justice" was evidently intended a civil or criminal court. State or court-martial could scarcely have been contemplated.

A member when duly summoned as a witness before a

¹ Thus, in G. C. M. O. 113, Dept. of the Mo., 1868, it was held that it was not a breach of the promise of good order and military discipline for a member of a general court to make known the vote and opinion of another member given while the court was considering, with closed doors, a subject in no way connected with the case then properly before the court. The remark was added by the reviewing officer, (Gen. S. D. M.) "The oath administered in compliance with the 69th, (1864) Article is binding only in matters pertaining to the subject actually being tried."

² Page 171, Vol. I, p. 1738. In a case in G. C. M. O. 24, Dep. of the Mo., 1868, Gen. Ord. disapproved, as contrary to the spirit of the oath, the action of the president of the court in adding over his signature to the finding in the record a statement to the effect that, for reasons stated, he disagreed with the majority in a certain finding,—thus giving his own opinion.

³ See Chapter XIII.

⁴ In the late British articles of war, the words "*or a court-martial*" were added after the words "court of justice." In the present U. S. A. the term employed is—"unless thereunto required by ~~the~~ ^{the} law."

rt for the purpose indicated, is not only authorized but
ged, if the testimony required of him on the subject be
erial, to make the disclosure of the vote, &c., if the same be
own to him; and this whether testifying in person or by
osition. It will be contempt if he refuses.¹

II. THE ARRAIGNMENT OF THE ACCUSED.

The Accused to be Free of Unnecessary Restraint.
e court being now duly qualified and organized for the trial,
l the accused being before it and ready to plead, the next pro-
ding is the formal arraignment. To this the accused, in the
itary as in the civil procedure, is entitled to come free from
ckles, irons or other bonds, except in some extreme case where
attempt to escape or to do violence is to be apprehended;²
he is entitled to remain similarly unrestrained pending the
l.³

Form of Arraignment. The arraignment is the calling of
prisoner to the bar of the court to answer to the matter
rged against him.⁴ In the practice of courts-martial it con-
s in reading to the accused the charges and specifications, and
nanding of him whether he is guilty or not guilty of each,
arately and in order. The order pursued where there are
eral charges is to arraign first on the 1st, 2d, and succeeding
cifications of the First charge, and then on that charge; next
the separate specifications of the Second charge, and then on
t charge; and so with the rest. In our practice the arraign-
nt is conducted by the judge advocate, both he and the
used properly standing during the ceremony. Where two or
re prisoners are to be tried together on joint charges, each is
arately arraigned.

The reading of the charges and specifications, besides being
formal and proper basis for the questions which are to suc-
d and the answers which are to follow, will be useful in

See *In re Mackenzie*, 1 Pa. Law J. R., 356.

² Hawkins, c. 28 § 1; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 731; Simmons § 473;
omb, 30; O'Brien, 235-6; De Hart, 113; G. O. 52, Dept. of the
, 1869; Circ., Dept. of the Mo., Feb. 19, 1872.

See DIGEST, 218-9, and authorities cited in note.

³ Hale, 219; 4 Black. Com., 322.

affording the accused an opportunity to compare the •
previously served upon him with the draft on which ~~h~~
arraigned and so detect any variance that may exist. It ~~t~~
however, *essential* to an arraignment that the charges and ~~s~~
fications be read on this occasion. If they are nume ~~ous~~
elaborate, and if the accused has assured himself that the ~~o~~
have not been modified since his receipt of the copy ~~he may~~
well—the court assenting—waive the reading, as at criminal ~~law~~
the defendant may waive the reading, on arraignment, of the
indictment.¹

So, by consent of parties, (and with the assent of the court) the arraignment may be further simplified by the omission of the questions usually addressed by the judge advocate to the accused as to how he pleads to the several charges, &c., and by the entry in the record of a general plea of guilty or not guilty as made to the whole, or of this plea to a part and a special plea or pleas to another part of the pleadings, or of a special plea or pleas to the whole—as the case may be. Where this form is resorted to, it is generally in connection with a waiver of the reading of the charges.

Answer of the Accused. The *answer* to the arraignment (which is no part of the arraignment itself,) will ordinarily consist of the plea of the *general issue* or of a *special plea*. In some cases, in lieu of a plea, a *motion*—as a motion to quash or strike out—will be made. It is possible, however, that the accused will make no answer whatever to the arraignment, but will remain wholly silent. Before proceeding, therefore, to consider in a separate Chapter the subject of Pleas and Motions, we will pause here to notice the rare contingency of *standing mute*.

STANDING MUTE.

The Law on the Subject. At an early period of the English law, in all capital cases except treason, if the prisoner stood mute, and the jury to which the question was referred,² found that he did so from obscurity or malice; or if he persisted in answering "foreign to the purpose;" he became liable to the

¹ *Constitutional Law*, 100. See also *1 Bishop, C.* § 220. And see *1 Bishop, C.* § 220.

² See *1 Bishop, C.* § 220.

forte et dure," a barbarous mode of punishment and torture finally done away by legislation till the reign of Geo. IV. In other cases, (and in all cases of felony after the date of legislation,) where the prisoner stood mute or refused to plead, the court proceeded—as if he had pleaded guilty—immediately to conviction and sentence;² and to the same effect appears to have been the practice of the earlier British courts-martial.³ But, by a later statute of 7 & 8 Geo. IV, criminal courts, upon prisoners refusing to plead, were authorized to order a plea of not guilty to be entered; and in the present Rules of Procedure, (R. 35, A,) it is specifically directed that if the accused before a court-martial "refuses to plead, or does not plead intelligibly, a plea of not guilty shall be recorded on each charge."

In this country, it was specifically adjudged in a federal court in 1818 that the penalty of *peine forte et dure* was unknown to the laws of the United States.⁴ Moreover a series of statutory provisions, dating from 1790, have—as the law is stated in Sec. 2 of the Revised Statutes where they are now consolidated—enacted that "*when any person indicted for any offence against the United States, whether capital or otherwise, upon his arraignment stands mute or refuses to plead or answer thereto, it shall be the duty of the court to enter the plea of not guilty on his behalf in the same manner as if he had pleaded not guilty thereto.*"⁵

As to military law, the first enactment on the subject was that of 1790 of the code of 1806, and this has been repeated in Art. 89 of the present code, of 1874, as follows:—"When a prisoner, arraigned before a general court-martial, from obstinacy and deliberate design, stands mute, or answers foreign to the purpose, the court may proceed to trial and judgment, as if the prisoner had pleaded not guilty."

Procedure. The application of the Article being restricted to cases where, from "obstinacy and deliberate design," the ac-

As to the description and history of this penalty, see 2 Hale, 319; 1 Black Com., 327-9; 1 Chitty, C. L., 426; Adye, 152; Tytler, 234; 1 Fors., 173; De Hart, 137.

1 Chitty, C. L., 425; 4 Black Com., 325; Rex v. Mercier, 1 Leach, U. S. v. Hare, 2 Wheeler, C. C., 300; De Hart, 137-8.

Simmons § 555. And see Tytler, 234-5.

U. S. v. Hare, 2 Wheeler, C. C., 301.

See U. S. v. Hare, *ante*. A similar statute exists "in probably all states." 1 Bishop, C. P. § 733 a.

used will not submit himself to be duly arraigned, it may become necessary for the court—where the accused stands mute, (or, what is equivalent, refuses to plead,) or answers foreign to the purpose, and it is not clear that he does so from mere wilfulness—to satisfy himself by an investigation whether he acts from contumacy, or from some cause beyond his control.

In such a case, in the civil practice, a jury is ordinarily empanelled to try and determine whether the party is mute, &c., from malice or self-will, or *ex visitatione Dei*—that is to say from a natural impediment or some other physical or mental infirmity. If the jury find that the silence, or refusal, results from the latter cause, the trial is, or not, proceeded with, according to the capacity of the prisoner to plead and defend with proper intelligence. If not found capable, he is remanded to custody for such disposition as the existing statute law may direct.*

In the military procedure, such an inquiry devolves of course upon the court, which, therefore, proceeds, with the assistance of such testimony, medical or other, as may, through the judge advocate, be made available, to determine the preliminary question. If it find the accused to be apparently insane or idiotic, it suspends the proceedings, reporting the facts to the convening authority, for such action as he may think proper to take or to recommend to be taken by the Secretary of War—as, for example, a discharge from the service, or a committal to the Government Hospital for the Insane.* If again—a contingency which must be of still later occurrence in the Army—the accused be found

* See *Hawkins v. Hoar*, 30 S. 1; 4 Black. Com. 324; Tytler, 233; O'Brien, 141. In *Hart*, 137. O'Brien, (p. 150,) includes also within the description of standing mute the case of an accused who, after a special plea interposed by him has been held inadmissible by the court, pertinaciously adheres to the same, refusing to plead to the merits. And see *Benet*, 108.

* See *Hawkins v. Hoar*, 30 S. 5; 4 Black. Com. 324; 2 Gabbett, 318; 18 H. 145. Rex v. Jones, 1 Leach, 102; Rex v. Mercier, *Id.* 183; Rex v. Sweet, *Id.* 181; Rex v. Pritchard, 7 C. & P., 303; Rex v. Dymoke, *Id.* 105. Rex v. Hutton, Ry. & Mo. 78; Queen v. Goode, 7 Ad. & El. 100. Rex v. Case, 1 Lew. 239; Thompson's Case, 2 *Id.* 137; *Fried's Case*, 1 How. S. F. 307; Com. v. Braley, 1 Mass. 102; Com. v. Moore, 1 *Id.* 10; Com. v. Hathaway, 13 *Id.* 299; Com. v. Hill, 14 *Id.* 207; Com. v. Lyce, 14 *Id.* 266; Matter of Turner, 5 Ohio, 544. And see, in this connection, *Freeman v. People*, 4 Denio, 9.

* On the subject of this inquiry by a court-martial, see Griffiths, 57 O'Brien, 181. *Benet*, 95.

* Under Sec. 1843, Rev. Sts.

ave lost, wholly or in part, the faculty of speech or hearing, may, if sufficiently intelligent and able to communicate his thoughts and wishes, plead and defend through an interpreter, in the civil practice: if not thus intelligent or capable, his case will properly be reported by the court to the convening power, for discharge or other appropriate action. If, on the other hand, the court determine that the accused stands mute, "from obstinacy and deliberate design," it will proceed as stated in the Article; the accused himself remaining liable to a separate charge and trial (by a different court) for such offence as may, if his conduct has been aggravated, have been involved in his acts or words.¹

It will be seldom, however, in practice that a court-martial be required to proceed as enjoined in Art. 89; and but a few instances of such proceeding are to be found published in the General Orders.²

III. CONTINUANCE.

It is upon the arraignment and before the plea that application is more frequently than later, made to the court for a continuance.

The subject of continuances will therefore best be considered at this point.

Art. 93. This subject is now regulated by the 93d Article of which is as follows:—"A court-martial shall, for reasonable cause, grant a continuance to either party, for such a time, and upon such terms as may appear to be just: Provided, That if the prisoner be in close confinement, the trial shall not be delayed for a period longer than sixty days."

If the acts or words of the accused amount to a menace, or a disturbing the proceedings, his conduct will come within the provision of Art. 86. But a mere neglect to plead is not a contempt. *1 v. Oliver, 1 Minn. 202.*

See cases in G. O. 96, Dept. of N. Mex., 1862; G. C. M. O. 62, of Va., 1865, where, upon the accused answering foreign to the case when arraigned, the court caused a plea of not guilty to be entered on the record, and proceeded with the trial. A more notorious case was that of C. L. Vallandigham, tried by military commission in 1863, who, denying the jurisdiction of the court, refused to plead to the charge; whereupon the plea of not guilty was entered as required by the Article. Printed Trial, p. 12; G. O. 68, Dept. of Ohio, 1863.

Construction and Effect of the Article, in general

This provision, which appears first as an Article of war in the revised code of 1874, was originally sec. 29 of the Act of 3, 1863, ch. 75. Prior to this statute the only provision subject was that of a paragraph, (now numbered 885,) Army Regulations, which directed that:—"Application for delay or postponement of trial must, when practicable, be made to the authority convening the court. When made to the court, it must be before plea, and will then, if in the opinion of the court well founded, be referred to the authority convening the court to decide whether the court should be adjourned or dissolved, and the charges reserved for another court." This regulation, which had in view applications to be made only or mainly by the accused, and to be made to, or finally passed upon by, the convening authority, and which required that applications addressed to the court should be presented before plea, was practically superseded by the statute, which authorizes either party, indifferently, to apply to the court for continuances, empowers the court alone to grant the same, and permits them to be granted at any stage of the proceedings. The Article in effect transfers to the court a function—similar to that exercised by the civil courts in continuing cases from one term or session to another—which the regulation had devolved upon the convening officer. Applications to delay the trial, or rather the assembling of the court for the trial, made before the date designated in the Order for such assembling, must of course always be addressed to that officer, but such applications are of rare occurrence.

The Article, by the words "shall grant," &c., is deemed to entitle the party to the continuance asked, (or to some continuance,) as a right, upon his showing "reasonable cause" therefor.

1. The Article, however, though employing the more legal term "continuance," in lieu of the more colloquial "postponement" used in the regulation, does not employ it in the strict sense in which it is commonly used in the civil practice, but in a more general sense as including any temporary stay of proceedings, to be granted by the court at the instance of a party. See *post*—"Duration of the continuance."

2. See DIGEST, 76. A refusal by the court to grant a continuance where reasonable cause therefor is exhibited, while it will not affect the legal validity of the proceedings, will, if the accused appears to have been thus prejudiced in his defence, or to have otherwise suffered in consequence, "properly constitute good ground for disapproving the sentence or for mitigating or partially remitting the punishment." DIGEST,

chief question under the Article is as to what constitutional cause. Before considering, however, the ground for continuance, we will notice certain minor points as follows:—

Time for making the Application. The Article, in regard for the granting of continuances “as often as shall be just,” is deemed to authorize the making of applications for the same *at any time pending the trial*. Sufficient causes for granting such applications may frequently arise at later stages of the proceedings,¹ yet if the ground for a continuance exists and is known prior to arraignment, the proper time for making the application is upon the arraignment and before plea.² If the facts would warrant the granting of the application are fully known at this time by the party, and he does not then present an objection but goes on to plead to the general issue, he may properly be held to have *waived* his title to a continuance on such facts.

Parties equally entitled under the Article. The view has been expressed by some of the authorities, (writing after the enactment of the present Article,) that a continuance should be granted more readily to the accused than to the prosecutor in a case at least where the ground presented is the absence of a material witness.³ The existing Article, however, making any distinction between the parties, and the courts have generally made none, whatever the ground of the application should look to the reason offered for the claim rather than the source from which it proceeds.

Duration of the Continuance. The Article declares that a continuance shall be granted “for such time as may appear to be necessary except in the single case where the accused is “in close confinement,” (a term explained in a previous Chapter,⁴) when,

¹ C. M. O. 35 of 1867; Do. 128 of 1876; G. O. 24, Dept. of Justice, 1874; Do. 63, Dept. of Dakota, 1872; Do. 40, Fourth Mil. Div., 1879.

² Simmons § 535; Kennedy, 66–7; Clode, M. L., 136; O'Brien, 129.

³ Kennedy, 66; De Hart, 129.

⁴ Simmons § 533; De Hart, 132; Benét, 87. The view expressed is founded upon a ruling on Col. Quentin's Trial, p. 35.

Chapter IX—“ARREST.”

MILITARY LAW.

trial shall not be delayed for a period longer than the limit in the excepted case is thus shown that it was contemplated that continuances for very considerable periods approximating the continuances from term to term might be granted. In Capt. Howe's case,¹ the trial, for which the continuance was granted, was, at the instance of the defendant, delayed nearly two years. This indeed was exceptional. In general it may be said that the period for which a continuance may legally be granted is without other limit than the exigencies and convenience of the service and the justice may impose. In practice, a continuance of more than a month is rare.

Successive Continuances. The Article further authorizes the court to grant continuances "as often as shall appear to be just." It does not say this may be renewed, or new ones may be allowed, nor does it set any limit as to number. A proper occasion for the granting of a continuance would be presented where a material witness had arrived at the time expected and to which the trial had been adjourned, but there was reasonable ground to believe that he would arrive presently. So, where a continuance had already been granted for one cause, the court might be disposed to accede to a subsequent application based upon the same ground, provided the same could not have been presented at the time the former was presented, and is itself properly evidenced.² But it is to be observed that, where a new and especially a reiterated, application, a stricter ground should ordinarily be required than in the case of a first motion: this indeed appears to be the view of the

¹ 10 Vt. Gen. 500.

² See *McCulloch*, 6 Mo. 448.

³ "In such a situation, a less degree of diligence would satisfy the court than in the case of a third application." * * * * * The court requires a more diligent greater diligence on each successive application. *Thomas*, 21 Ills. 89. And see 1 Bishop, C. P. 207. A second application is made on the same ground as a first, and is based upon new facts which have arisen since the first application. *McClure*, 73 Ills. 112; *Wilson v. State*, 33 Ga. 207. A continuance on account of an absent witness

It may be added that, under the wide discretion permitted it, allow a stay of proceedings when and as often as it may deem fit, a court-martial, like a civil court, may grant a continuance of the trial of *an issue formed upon a special plea* as well as at any other stage. But here too a stricter rule as to proof may in general properly be applied than where the trial is upon the general issue.¹

Grounds for Continuance. It was declared by Lord Mansfield in *Rex v. D'Eon*,² that—"no crime is so great, no proceedings so instantaneous, but that, *upon sufficient grounds*, the trial may be put off." A similar condition is expressed in our Article of War by the words "*for reasonable cause*." Whether the cause stated in any case is a reasonable one, the court alone is empowered, in its discretion, to determine. But on this subject there are certain general rules which, though not absolute or imperative, have been recognized as properly guiding the discretion of the court; and these rules, which are in general also applicable to the military practice, will be referred to in considering the principal grounds for continuances—as follows:

1. Absence of a material witness. This is the most frequent of such grounds, both upon civil and military trials. In the case last above cited,³ Chief Justice Mansfield clearly lays down the rules governing the granting of a continuance for this cause. "Three things," he observes, "are necessary to put off trial—1. That the witness is really material and appears to the court so to be; 2. That the party who applies has been guilty of neglect; 3. That the witness can be had at the time to which the trial is deferred." In our own law, it is directed by par. 886 of the Army Regulations, as follows:—"Upon application by the accused for postponement on the ground of the absence of a witness, it ought distinctly to appear on his oath—1st, that the witness is material, and how; 2d, that the accused has used due diligence to procure his attendance; and, 3d, that he has reason-

ould show renewed diligence to secure his attendance used since the continuance. *Powers v. Lockwood*, 9 Johns. 132; *St. John v. Benedict*, 12 Johns. 418.

1. See *Wade v. Birmingham*, 2 Chitty, 5.

2. 1 W. Black. 514.

3. *Rex v. D'Eon*, 1 W. Black. 514; *Id.*, 3 Bur. 1514.

able ground to believe, and does believe, that he will be able to procure such attendance within a reasonable time stated."

The affidavit or statement. This regulation is in terms confined to the case of an application by the accused; the previous par., (§ 885,) having also, as we have seen, contemplated the making of such applications mainly at least on the part of the defence. But the statute of 1863, (Art. 93,) enacted since the date of the originals of these regulations, having provided for the granting of continuances to either party indifferently, the judge advocate, when the motion comes from him, may properly be called upon to make a similar statement, though his oath to the same need not be required. In practice the accused is generally sworn to his statement by the judge advocate. But—the regulation being directory only—the taking of the oath, and even the making of the formal statement, may be waived by the opposite party, and in practice is, with the consent of the court, not unfrequently dispensed with where the continuance asked is but for a brief period and there is no reason to question the good faith of the party applying.'

But as a general rule, and especially where the continuance will entail an unusual delay, or is asked for at an unusual stage of the proceedings, the preferable course is for the party to proceed with his application the statement indicated in the regulation setting forth explicitly therein the three points enumerated.

In the first place, therefore, he will properly state, not only that the witness is *material* but *how* he is material, and this by specifying as to what feature of the case he is to testify and what it is expected that his testimony will be in substance or effect.² And this testimony should appear to be substantial and appropriate to the issue of guilt or innocence under the specific charge, not testimony as to character merely,³ or testimony which is only

ulative or reiterative as to a point already sufficiently extended in proof.¹ The main object, it may be noted, in specifying the facts proposed or expected to be proved by the witness is not only that the court may better judge as to his materiality, but that the opposite party may have an opportunity to *admit* the facts or that the witness will so testify, and the occasion for continuance thus be done away with. Where indeed, as is not only the case in a criminal proceeding, the personal appearance and statement of the witness will be of manifest and material advantage to the party applying for the continuance, he ought in general to be deprived of the same by anything short of an unqualified admission and stipulation of record, by the opposite party, that the witness, if present, would testify as to certain facts, and that his testimony would be true.²

Secondly, the party applying for the continuance should set forth in his affidavit or statement sufficient facts to show that he has used *due diligence* to secure the attendance of the witness—at least, without fault of his own, he has but just been advised of the existence or of the whereabouts of the witness; or “that he has endeavored without effect to serve on him a subpoena, specifying the exertions used;”³ or that the witness has been duly summoned but refuses or neglects to appear and that an attachment has been or is about to be issued for him; or that he has been summoned, or ordered to attend, but residing, or being employed or on duty, at a great distance from the station of the court, has not had time to reach the same;⁴ or that, having once obeyed in obedience to a summons or order, he has, without the fault or knowledge of the applicant, withdrawn or disappeared, cannot be found, &c. And in every case, where the exist-

ence of the proposed testimony as to character is really important to the case, and the judge advocate is not prepared to admit it, the court may properly grant a reasonable continuance.

See *People v. Thompson*, 4 Cal. 238; *Parker v. State*, 55 Miss. 345; also *Mull's Case*, 8 Grat. 696; *Rhea v. State*, 10 Yerg. 258; 1 T. 76. This general rule may also be departed from in a proper

Compare *Goodman v. State*, 1 Meigs, 197; *People v. Vermilyea*, 10 Cal. 369.

Wharton, C. P. & P. § 591.

Or that he has been recently separated from his witnesses, by the change of station of his regiment or company. See case in DIGEST, 77,

ence of the witness has been known, the party should state, in general terms merely that due diligence has been used, and specifically what acts have been done by him and efforts made to procure his attendance.¹ Where the witness is absent on account of illness, the party should cause this fact to appear by a medical certificate or medical testimony, or, if such cannot be obtained, by some other reliable means of information.² From the facts exhibited the court will judge whether a reasonable diligence has been employed, or the party has been chargeable with laches: if the latter is apparent the application will regularly be denied.³ And so will it be denied where there is reason for believing that the witness is absent by the procurement or connivance of the applicant himself.⁴

Thirdly. The party, in his affidavit or statement, should state a date, not unreasonably distant, within which he should show

1. Wharton, C. P. & P. § 591; Pence v. Christman, 15 Ind. 2; Brady v. Malone, 4 Iowa, 146; People v. Thompson, 4 Cal. 438.

2. Wharton, C. P. & P. § 591; 2 McArthur, 32; Simmons § 5; Maltby, 64; Macomb, 36; O'Brien, 246-7; De Hart, 131.

3. "It must be shown that the absence of the witness is not attributable to any neglect of the applicant." Simmons § 533. And see Kennedy, 67; Maltby, 64; O'Brien, 246. In Capt. Powlett's case, McArthur, 28,) one of the reasons for which the court-martial refused continuance to the accused was that he had not "taken the proper measures for preventing" witnesses, who had been at hand, from going abroad and thus absenting themselves at the time of the trial. Clark (M. L., 136.) remarks: "A postponement to get up evidence, which ought to have been ready at the opening, would not be regular." In civil cases it is held not due diligence to rely on the mere promise of a witness to attend; and where this has been done by a party, he will be allowed a continuance on account of the absence of the witness. Freeland v. Howell, Anthon, 198; Day v. Gelston, 22 Ills. 102; Smith v. Cross, 12 Iowa, 66; Mackubin v. Clarkson, 5 Minn. 247; Camp v. Blanke, 13 Kans. 62; Hensley v. Lytle, 5 Texas. 500;—even where the witness has in fact been subpoenaed by the opposite party. McGoelitz, 27 Ills. 18.

4. Wormley v. Com., 10 Grat. 658. On the other hand, a continuance will not be denied where the party, though apparently chargeable with laches, has really been prevented from securing the testimony by reason of the acts or omissions of the other party or his agents. Upton v. Duane, J. B. Wallace, 10.

The accused in a military case cannot be charged with laches where the attendance of the witness has been prevented by superior authority,—as where the witness is detained on duty in the field or on active service. See case in G. O. 63, Dept. of Dakota, 1872, note DIGEST, 76; also case referred to in Id., 77, § 3.

facts specifically set forth, that he is reasonably justified in believing that he will be enabled to secure the presence of the witness at the court.¹ Where indeed, in the opinion of the court, does not appear that the personal attendance of the witness may reasonably be expected to be secured within the time needed, a continuance may still be granted for the purpose of enabling the party to obtain the *deposition* of the witness—the ground next to be noticed.

2. Time to procure the deposition of a distant witness.

Where this is the ground for the continuance sought, the application should be presented as soon as practicable, and should satisfy the court that the testimony is material and that the witness, from physical causes or otherwise, cannot attend the court in person, or, by reason of the distance of his residence or station, the duty on which he is engaged, or other circumstance, cannot attend without an unreasonable delay, or serious prejudice to the service.²

The non-return of a deposition, for which interrogatories have been sent, may also constitute good ground for a brief continuance; where the moving party has not been chargeable with delay in having it executed or procuring its return.³

Absence of written or documentary evidence. The unavailability of this as a ground for continuance is illustrated in an English case,⁴ where, in granting a postponement to enable the defendant to procure a copy of a judgment of a distant trial, the court observe: "The absence of such a document is

Simmons § 533; Kennedy, 67; Macomb, 35-6; O'Brien, 246; Hart, 130; DIGEST, 76. A "reasonable expectation" of procuring testimony is a "standing requisite." *U. S. v. Deane*, J. B. Wall, 8.

See *Burris v. Wise*, 2 Ark. 33; *Waskern v. Diamond*, Hempst. *Hawley v. Stirling*, 2 Cal. 470.

See *Marsh v. Hulbert*, 4 McLean, 364; *Blagg v. Phoenix Ins. Co.*, Washington, 5; *Martin v. Anderson*, 21 Ga. 301; *Vaiden v. Abney*, 11 An. 57; *Hogan v. Burleson*, 25 Texas, 35; *Miles v. Danforth*, 32 59. In the last case the motion was granted, though it appeared the commissioner had not yet met the witnesses; it being held that the latter were volunteer soldiers in active service, the moving party not chargeable with laches in not procuring the deposition to be promptly taken.

Mackenzie v. Hudson, 1 Dow. & Ry. 159.

equivalent to the absence of a witness." In a military case, the occasion for moving for a continuance on this ground would most frequently arise where it was desired to obtain, for use in evidence, a certified copy, which could not be made and forwarded without some delay, of a record of trial, or other record or official document on file in the War or Treasury Department, or other public depository of the United States or a State. The court, before granting the motion, should be satisfied that the written evidence is material to the issue, that the party has not, by neglecting at a previous time to procure the original or a copy, forfeited his claim to the postponement sought, and that the writing can be procured without an unreasonable delay. Where the record or paper is of a simple character, an admission by the opposite party as to its existence and contents may sometimes well be accepted as doing away with the occasion for a continuance.

Other grounds. Other recognized grounds for the granting of continuances are such as—the sickness of the accused as established by the proper medical evidence;¹ the temporary illness of the judge advocate;² the death, illness or absence of the counsel for the defence, in an important case, where considerable time is required to enable the accused to supply his place;³ the serious indisposition (shown by medical testimony) of a material witness occurring pending his examination or when he is about to be

1. Wharton, C. P. & P. § 597; Simmons § 535; Kennedy, 45; Griffiths, 29; Clode, M. L., 136; Maltby, 64; Macomb, 36; O'Brien, 27; De Hart, 131. The fact of the illness may be presented by the judge advocate, the counsel for the accused, or the accused himself if able to come into court.

2. See O'Brien, 247. In the event, however, of a merely temporary indisposition of the judge advocate or the accused, the court will ordinarily itself *adjourn* for a brief period, without any motion for a continuance being made. And where the illness seems likely to be protracted the court may prefer to adjourn and report the fact to the Commandant rather than to allow a continuance moved by a party. See *post*—"Continuance as distinguished from Adjournment."

3. "It would be contrary to natural justice that a party should be compelled to have his cause tried when the attorney who has all along had the management thereof is prevented by sickness from attending trial." Hayley v. Grant, Sayer, 63. And see R. I. v. Mass., 11 Pet. 229; Schultz v. Moore, 1 McLean. 334; Hunter v. Fairfax, 3 Dal. 305; Hill v. Clark, 51 Ga. 122; Rossett v. Gardner, 3 W. Va. 5; Marrero v. Nunez, 3 La. An. 54.

called upon to testify.¹ So, a reasonable continuance may properly be granted the accused to enable him to procure counsel at the outset of the proceedings where he has not yet had a sufficient opportunity to do so.² It is also sometimes "reasonable cause" for a continuance that the accused, having been brought to trial presently upon his arrest or upon the service of the charges, has not had time to prepare his plea or defence;³ or that a material amendment has been made in the charges or an additional charge has been introduced which he has not had sufficient time to examine or answer prior to the arraignment;⁴ or that the case is one presenting grave questions of law or other unusual difficulties requiring extended study and preparation.⁵ A further ground may be the pendency of other proceedings, in a similar or the same case, before another court-martial or a civil court; on account of which a continuance may properly be asked and granted, either because these proceedings will probably so illustrate and facilitate the investigation on the proposed trial as to make it desirable to suspend the same till such proceedings are terminated; or because a due respect for the civil authority requires that such suspension should be had. Thus in Capt. Howe's case,⁶ the trial by court-martial was, (as

1. Simmons § 533.

2. Simmons § 475, 536. DIGEST, 77; G. C. M. O. 25 of 1875. So, it may be proper to accord a brief continuance to a party desiring to procure an interpreter, clerk, or stenographer, where the necessity or expediency of employing such assistance is sufficiently made to appear.

3. Kilmarnock's Case, Foster, 2; State v. Lewis, 1 Bay, 1.

4. Hough, 31; Id., (P.) 667; Simmons § 418; Griffiths, 62; O'Brien, 150; DIGEST, 77. A further ground may consist in the fact that a material amendment is allowed by the court to be made in the charges after arraignment or pending the trial. DIGEST, 77, 155. Important unexpected testimony given on the trial, which could not reasonably have been anticipated, may also furnish ground for a continuance. DIGEST, 83.

5. And so where, from some unforeseen accident or casualty, the party has been deprived of the opportunity to prepare for trial. See *Torrey v. Morehouse*, 1 Johns. Cas. 242; *Nixen v. Hallett*, 2 Id. 218; *Farr v. McDowell*, 1 Bay, 31.

6. VI Opins. At. Gen., 506. To the grounds here enumerated may be added one other, recognized in the civil practice and which may under some circumstances be applicable to a military case, viz: the prevalence of a state of public excitement and prejudice precluding for a time an impartial trial. See *Rex v. Gray*, 1 Bur. 510; *Com. v. Dunham*, Thach. 516; *Jim v. State*, 15 Ga. 535; *Nelson v. State*, 2 van, 483.

above mentioned,) suspended for two years, (not indeed by a formal continuance but upon the same principle,) for the reason that the accused had already been arrested, indicted, and held to bail by the civil authorities on account of the same act which formed the subject of the military charge, and for the purpose of awaiting the result of the criminal proceedings.

Trial of the Issue on an Application for Continuance

Upon an application for a continuance under the Article, all facts and circumstances relied upon by the party to sustain his motion should properly be laid before the court; and, where desirable he may fortify his statement or affidavit by the statements and affidavits of other persons.¹ He may annex to, or incorporate or present with his own statement such orders, communications, or other written evidence as may be apposite. To support his motion, he may also introduce witnesses, (to be sworn by the judge advocate;) and the opposite party, if he *contests* the application may offer counter affidavits and rebutting witnesses; and both parties may make argument.² For in such a case a regular and legal *issue* is joined, and, (although the proceedings, being preliminary merely, should be as brief as practicable,) an issue to be duly tried and determined. But where the *accused* applies for a continuance upon a recognized ground, and furnishes a satisfactory statement or sufficient evidence to warrant it, his application except perhaps as to the extent of time asked for, will not often be contested by the judge advocate.

It may be added that, in general, the facts set forth in an affidavit for a continuance, if frankly and fully stated, are to be taken to be *prima facie* true, and, if not disputed by the opposite party, are to be acted upon as substantially true by the court.³

Continuance as distinguished from Adjournment. In conclusion may be noticed the distinction between *continuances*, which are granted to a party upon his application therefor under the authority of the Article of war, and *adjournments*, which are properly brief intermissions of its business taken by the court itself of its own accord or as its own act. An adjournment may

1. See *King v. Siberil*, 1 Ken. 356; Maltby, 64.

2. See *Simmons* § 533. But see *DIGEST*, 76, note 1.

3. See *Wick v. Weber*, 64 Ills. 167; *Quincy Whig Co. v. Tillson*, 67 Id. 351.

sometimes accomplish the purpose of a continuance and render one unnecessary. Thus, for some such object, not likely to involve a long delay, as to enable the accused to procure counsel, or the judge advocate a clerk; to secure the presence of a witness who is *en route* and expected presently; to give time for the recovery of a party, counsel, witness, or member, who is temporarily ill, &c.—a voluntary adjournment by the court for a day, or for a few days, or from day to day for a brief period, will often be adequate without a resort to an application for the formal continuance contemplated by the Article. Even a *recess* taken by the court for a part of a day will sometimes be sufficient.

Extent of authority to adjourn. An adjournment, like a continuance, is not to be resorted to merely for the convenience of the members.¹ It should be taken to some particular day; to adjourn subject to the call of the president would be irregular; to adjourn subject to the call of the judge advocate would be quite without the sanction of military usage.² In war, or when otherwise specially prompt action is required, the court may adjourn to the quarters of a sick member and there hold a session,³ or to the quarters of a sick witness for the purpose of taking his testimony.⁴ In a case of necessity a court-martial may even adjourn to a different station or locality, but such an adjournment should, regularly, be subsequently ratified by the Commander. An adjournment *sine die* or "without day" has no legal significance, and no more effect than a simple adjournment; a court-martial being a creature of orders and having, as has heretofore been noticed,⁵ no power to dissolve itself or terminate its own existence.⁶

1. "While courts have the unquestioned right to adjourn from time to time in the interests of the public service, and while they are the judges of what the public service may require, yet an adjournment prompted by the caprice, or made to suit the convenience of the members or a part of them, involves the offence of disobedience of orders on the part of those members who vote for it." G. C. M. O. 161, Dept. of Dakota, 1882. (Gen. Terry.)

2. "The future meetings of the court should not have been left to the discretion of the judge advocate." G. C. M. O. 9, Dept. of Texas, 1883. (Gen. Augur.)

3. Hough, (P.) 712, 721.

4. Hough, (P.) 744; Kennedy, 45; DIGEST, 103. And note instance in G. C. M. O. 37, Dept. of the East, 1870.

5. Chapter V.

6. DIGEST, 103; G. C. M. O. 142, Dept. of the Mo., 1870.

IV. NOLLE PROSEQUI OR WITHDRAWAL.

Definition. At or before the arraignment, (or later pending the trial,) it may happen that it will be expedient for the government to enter a *nolle prosequi* as to the charge, or, where there are several charges, to one or more of the charges or specifications. The term is derived from the common law formula according to which the prosecutor comes into court and *fatetur se ulterius nolle prosequi*. It is thus a declaration of record on the part of the prosecution that it withdraws the charge or specification from the investigation and will not pursue the same further at the present trial.

Authority and occasion for. As has already been indicated, the court has no authority of its own motion to withdraw a charge, nor has the judge advocate, in his capacity of prosecuting officer or otherwise, any such authority.¹ The authority to *nol. pros.* must be exercised by the superior who ordered the court, or must be obtained from him. The principal grounds for this proceeding will be—the fact that the charge, &c., is discovered to be substantially defective and insufficient in law; that it is ascertained, (which indeed may not be done till the trial is quite or nearly concluded,) that the allegations cannot be proved, or that the testimony available is not sufficient to sustain them; that the criminality of one of the accused, where there are several, cannot be established; that it is proposed to use one of the accused as a witness, &c.² As will be noticed in the next Chapter, this proceeding is the proper one, where a valid plea of pardon is interposed by the accused. The entry of a *nolle prosequi* is

1. Chapters X and XIII.

2. In G. O. 64, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1867, it was properly held to be "no ground for a *nol. pros.*," that to proceed with the trial would prejudice the interests of the service in detaining the accused, and an officer present as a witness, from important duties. In G. O. 75, Dept. of the South, where the judge advocate, with the assent of the court, entered a *nol. pros.* to certain charges and specifications, on the ground that three of the most material witnesses had absented themselves without authority from the court-room and could not be found, and the remaining witnesses could not prove the case, this action was disapproved by Gen. Terry, and it was remarked that—"the reason assigned, unless the court was satisfied that every proper effort had been made to procure such evidence, ought to have been considered by the court as insufficient."

ies also resorted to in anticipation of a motion to quash, such a motion has been made and because of it.¹

4. A withdrawal of a charge or specification is not *per* valent to an acquittal, or to a grant of pardon, and cannot be pleaded. It simply removes from the pending case the particular charge, &c., without prejudice to its being subsequently filed in its original or a revised form. In the criminal proceeding, a *nolle prosequi* cannot in general be entered, after arraignment and plea, without the consent of the accused, who, in accordance with the law, is deemed, in the event of such action, to be bound to a verdict which he may plead in bar of a second trial; and if the entry is made against his consent, it is held to be equivalent to an acquittal.² But this doctrine cannot properly be applied to cases before courts-martial, where the proceedings are conducted under military orders, and where, when charges are withdrawn from prosecution, they are so withdrawn by the order, or, what is equivalent, the sanction,) of the official superior officer created the court and directed the trial—an order which binds the judge advocate, the accused and the court alike.³

5. *Practice.* In the military practice, the *nolle prosequi* has been resorted to at the outset of a trial and where a special motion to strike out has been allowed by the court. The particular charge or specification being thus formally withdrawn, the trial proceeds on the other charges and specifications. At a later stage of the trial, it is found that a charge or specification cannot be sustained, or it is determined for other reason

¹ State *v.* Buchanan, 1 Ire. 59, where a motion having been made to quash, the prosecuting attorney *nol. prosequi* as to a defective indictment, retaining the rest of the indictment. As to the Motion to quash, see Chapter XVI.

² 1 Bishop, C. P. § 1394; Wharton, C. P. & P. § 447; U. S. *v.* McKer, 2 McLean, 114; U. S. *v.* Farring, 4 Cranch C. 465; Com. *v.* Scott, 20 Pick. 366; Com. *v.* Scott, 121 Mass. 33; Mount *v.* State, 1301; Reynolds *v.* State, 3 Kelly, 53.

³ In such an order the military commander represents the government, i. e. the President; and, as observed by Atty. Gen. Wirt, (V 729,) "there can be no doubt of the power of the President to enter a *nolle prosequi* in any stage of a criminal proceeding in the name of the United States;"—a statement of the law especially applicable to military cases. To the same effect see U. S. *v.* Corrie, Brunner, 686.

⁴ *post* as to the *practice*.

that the same shall not be pursued, while it will be legal to enter a *not. pros.* thereto, it will be the preferable course, as well as most just to the accused, not to do so, but to allow the accused to be formally *acquitted* thereon at the finding.¹

1. See G. O. 64, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1867; G. C. M. O. 79, Dept. of the Platte, 1877; Do. 6, Dept. of Cal., 1872.

CHAPTER XVI.

PLEAS AND MOTIONS.

Answer to the Arraignment. The accused, upon being arraigned, may, (where he does not stand mute, or ask a continuance before pleading,) answer to the arraignment in several forms. He may proceed at once to plead 'guilty' or 'not guilty' to the charge and specifications, (or 'guilty' to some and 'not guilty' to others;) or he may interpose, by way of special plea or motion, an objection or objections to his being tried at all; or he may similarly object to being tried on some particular charge or charges, specification or specifications, while pleading the general issue as to the rest. He is not indeed limited to one special plea or motion, but may offer such number as the law and facts may justify, before—in the event of their disallowance—sorting, as he may then do, to the plea of 'guilty' or 'not guilty.'

Preliminary Objections. We have already seen that at an earlier stage, *viz.* prior to the swearing of the court, and at the point at which challenges are usually offered, the accused, being present, may raise any objection properly going to the legal existence of the court,—as that it has not been legally constituted or composed; or to its authority to proceed with the trial,—that it is without jurisdiction of the person or the offence. Such objections are indeed good at any time; they may therefore be taken at the stage now reached, *viz.* upon the arraignment. One objection, however, that the court is an illegal body, whose proceedings must be void *ab initio*, is a radical defect which is not appropriately raised and determined at the earliest stage, and the grounds for such objection have already been considered in the Chapters on the Constitution and Composition of General Courts-Martial. The plea of want of jurisdiction, on the other

See 4 Black. Com., 338; Tytler, 242; Maltby, 60; O'Brien, 250.

hand, being based mainly upon the descriptions and averments of the charges, which are not formally before the court till arraignment, may properly be, and in practice generally is, served till this time.

Division of the Subject. The subject, therefore, of *answer to the arraignment* may be presented under the following heads, indicating the different forms in which such answer may most fitly be made:—I. Plea to the Jurisdiction; II. Motion to quash or strike out; III. Special pleas in bar; IV. Plea of Guilty or Not Guilty.

I. PLEA TO THE JURISDICTION.

A Plea Legally Entertained. That this plea, (which to the effect either that the person of the accused, or the offence charged, is not within the jurisdiction of the court,) is one which may legally be made and entertained, is now fully settled in military law and practice. In other words a court-martial is authorized to pass upon the question of its own authority to proceed to *try* under the convening order.¹ Its conclusion upon such question is not final; and if, having determined that it has not jurisdiction, it is thereupon *ordered* by the convening officer to take cognizance of the case, it will be its duty to comply.

The Subject Elsewhere Considered. The subject of this plea, however, need not here be dwelt upon. In Chapter V under the title of the Jurisdiction of General Courts-Martial have already been fully exhibited the occasions and grounds upon which such plea in general, and in Chapter XXII are indicated the special grounds upon which the same may be offered upon appeal before an Inferior Court. The situations and circumstances therefore which justify this plea need not here be reiterated.

II. MOTION TO QUASH OR STRIKE OUT.

Its Nature and Scope. By means of this convenient and effective motion on the part of the accused,² may be raised

1. That a court-martial is empowered to pass upon the question of its own legal existence or original authority, see Tytler, 143; V O At. Gen., 707.

2. It may also be made by the *prosecution* with regard to a *plea* interposed by the accused, claimed to be insufficient in fact or substance.

decided in a summary manner all the objections which in the civil practice may be taken by the plea to the jurisdiction, the demurrer, the plea in abatement, or the motion in arrest of judgment. It is in effect a species of informal and commonly oral plea,¹ much availed of in the criminal courts, as a ready and effectual means of disposing of objections in general to the indictment, by effacing the same, or a separate count, from the record. As remarked in an adjudged case,² the motion to quash, as compared with the other forms of procedure above mentioned, "is a more easy and equally effectual mode of getting at the whole matter: everything may be heard upon it." This motion, though it has not received from military writers³ the attention which it is entitled, is not unfrequently resorted to in the modern military practice where it is commonly distinguished as *the motion to strike out*. In this practice, in which the demurrer as such is not appropriate, and the plea in abatement, being dilatory and captious in its character, is rarely employed, and in which also the motion in arrest of judgment is unknown, the motion under consideration, from its simplicity, directness, and efficiency, is deemed to have a peculiar aptness and value.

Form of the Motion. There is no prescribed form for this motion, which may either be oral or in writing.⁴ It should not, however, be made in general terms, but its precise ground or grounds should be distinctly specified.⁵ Otherwise indeed the court may decline to entertain it.

At what stage to be Interposed. As has already been indicated, this motion is one to be made upon the arraignment and

1. See 1 Bishop, C. P. § 761.

2. Nichols v. State, 2 Halst. 539. And see State v. Wishon, 15 Mo. 13; State v. Dayton, 3 Zab. 49.

3. Simmons indeed, (§ 568,) remarks in substance that the accused may offer, by way of *plea*, an objection to the charge on account of a want of specific allegation as to some material matter. And see, as repeating, Macomb, 37; De Hart, 145-6; O'Brien, 249. It may be observed that there is no subject in regard to which military writers in general are more incomplete and uninformative than that of Pleas and motions; the matter of pleas proper being repeatedly found confused on the one hand with that of motions and on the other hand with that of defenses.

4. In practice, it is commonly oral. See *ante*.

5. See State v. Maurier, 7 Iowa, 408.

before a plea to the general issue. But as its effect, if granted, is to save time and simplify the proceedings, a criminal court will always permit an accused, who has pleaded not guilty, to withdraw his plea for the purpose of interposing this motion, and a court-martial will properly do the same.

Occasion and Use of the Motion. "Whenever," says Bishop,² "an indictment cannot be proceeded with advantage to public justice, or without doing a wrong to the defendant," it may, on proper motion, be quashed. As in the ordinary criminal procedure, so in that of courts-martial, this motion may properly be made, with regard to a charge or specification, on one, (or more,) of the grounds following, viz. that the person described or offence charged is not within the jurisdiction of the court; that the charge does not set forth a sufficient offence; or that, for a breach of observance in the pleading of the rule of certainty or some other of the rules heretofore laid down as governing the framing of charges, the accused is actually prevented from making a proper plea or defence. As in the civil practice, the ground on which the motion most frequently relied upon will be that the charge or specification does not set forth the intended offence, or a legal offence; this motion being really, in its commonest application, a substitute for the demurrer.³ The motion, however, is not unfrequently made on account of the serious indefiniteness of the substance of a specification.⁴

Addressed to the Discretion of the Court. This motion is of a summary and aggressive character, in the nature

1. Nichols v. State, 2 Halst. 539.

2. 1 C. P. § 758.

3. See State v. Robinson, 9 Foster, 274; Thomasson v. State, 499; Com. v. Chapman, 11 Cush. 422.

4. Compare State v. Rutherford, 13 Texas, 24, where a motion was quashed on motion because—"so vague, uncertain, and indefinite that the accused is unable to understand what he is called upon to defend." And, to a similar effect, see Rex v. Heffer, 1 Ry. & M.

It may be added here that where there are in the case two or more specifications against the accused in substantially the same form and for the same offence, whereby, without material advantage accruing to the accused by the motion, the defence must be embarrassed, a motion to strike out all of them may properly be made and allowed. Compare State v. Dale, 2 Dev. & Bat. 100.

1 upon the indictment, it is agreed by the authorities that it
 n all cases wholly *within the discretion of the court* whether or
 : it will allow a proceeding the effect of which is to eliminate
 entire basis and material of the prosecution or an important
 t of it.¹ While in a clear case the motion will generally be
 nted, in a case of any doubt the court will commonly prefer
 to accede to so abrupt a method but to leave the accused to
 e advantage of the alleged defect on the general issue.² A
 rt-martial will also the more hesitate where the charge moved
 e struck out has been preferred or revised by high military
 hority, and there is thus an unusually strong presumption in
 or of its completeness and sufficiency in law. The test which
 civil courts usually apply to an indictment or count moved
 be quashed is the question whether it will support a legal
 gment: if it will, the motion is not granted.³ With a court-
 tial the corresponding test would be whether a finding of
 lty upon the charge or specification which is the subject of
 motion would convict the accused of a legal offence for which
 ence could properly be adjudged, or of one the trial of which
 ld be pleaded in bar of a second trial for the same offence.⁴
 : granting of the motion being discretionary with the court, a
 sal to allow it cannot affect the legality of the proceedings.⁵

**Not in General to be Granted except for a Defect
 Substance.** Although motions to quash have been allowed
 he civil practice for "gross deficiency in the formal requi-
 ;,"⁶ the better general rule is that to warrant the granting of
 motion the defect must be of a substantial character and not

Nothing is better settled than that the court is not *bound* to quash
 indictment before trial. *State v. Burke*, 38 Maine, 574. "It is a
 er of discretion whether an indictment shall be quashed in any case:
 not *ex debito justitiæ*. In an important and doubtful case I would
 do it." Hornblower C. J., in *State v. Hageman*, 1 Green, 323.

See 1 Bishop, C. P. § 768.

Hawkins, c. 25, s. 146; *State v. Dayton*, 3 Zab. 49; *State v.*
Win, 1 Dev. & Bat. 195; *Com. v. Eastman*, 1 Cush. 189; *U. S. v.*
1, 2 Curtis, 265.

Thus a motion to strike out a charge of "conduct unbecoming an
 r or a gentleman," or other specific charge, should not be granted
 e the specification will at least support a valid finding of "conduct
 e prejudice of good order and military discipline."

State v. Putnam, 38 Me. 297; *Com. v. Eastman*, 1 Cush. 189.
 1 Chitty, C. L., 302. And see *U. S. v. Crittenden*, Hemphill, 61.

one of form merely.¹ So, in a military case, the court will properly disallow a motion to strike out a specification on account of a mere defect of form, (except where of an unusually aggravated character,) or even for a slight substantial defect which can be at once or presently remedied by an amendment on the part of the judge advocate.

Admission of Evidence in Support of the Motion. This being a summary proceeding, it is the general rule that the motion must be based upon a defect appearing on the face of the pleading. This rule, however, is held not to preclude the court from aiding its discretion by taking into consideration extrinsic facts admitted by the prosecution or exhibited in evidence by affidavit. In military proceedings there can in general be no objection to thus showing some fact of a simple character essential to sustain the motion and which will enable the court at once to determine it. But facts which are in issue between the parties cannot be shown in this connection, and if proof of such facts is necessary to sustain the motion, the same will properly be denied, and the accused be left to his defence.

Proceeding upon the Granting of the Motion. The court, instead of allowing the motion in terms, may, as already indicated, permit the judge advocate, if he desires it, to amend the defective pleading, provided an adequate amendment can at the time be made. But if the motion is specifically granted, and it relates to the only charge or all the charges in the case, the court will communicate, through its president, to the convening authority, the action taken, and await his orders; meanwhile, if thought desirable, proceeding with any other case that may be ready for trial. If the motion as granted has related to but a portion of two or more charges or specifications, the court will proceed with those left unassailed precisely as if they were the only charges originally in the case; their validity not being

1. *State v. Dayton*, 3 Zab. 53; *Bell v. Com.*, 8 Grat. 603. Statutes of some of the States contain express provisions to the effect that indictments shall not be quashed for defects not prejudicing substantial rights of the defendant upon the merits. See, for example, the Indiana statute referred to in *Dukes v. State*, 11 Ind. 560.

2. See 1 Bishop, C. P. § 763.

ed by the striking out of the other or others.¹ If, however, remaining charges or specifications be of a comparatively important character, the court may in its discretion communicate with the convening authority before proceeding to try the

the commander, on receiving the report of the court, may, disapproves its action, order it positively to proceed to try charges,² or require it to reconsider such action in the same manner as upon a final judgment. Or, whether disapproving or sustaining, he may direct the court to proceed with the trial of the remaining charges or specifications; or, if all the charges, &c., be eliminated, or those left be such as not to make worth while to pursue them alone, he may direct the judge to abandon the prosecution altogether. Or he may permit to the court new or amended charges, to be tried those of the former set which remain, or, where none remain, to form the basis of a new prosecution.³ In either of these cases, whether the charges be altogether new or amended, the proceedings should be commenced *de novo*; the accused being offered the opportunity of challenge, and the court being sworn.⁴

State v. Woodward, 21 Mo. 266; Simmons § 568. But quashing indictment as to one of several *joint* defendants, and upon his motion, quashes it as to all. 5 Bac. Abr. 96; People v. Eckford, 155 535.

See an early instance of such an order in G. O. of Feb. 22, 1822.

In the same manner as, after an indictment has been quashed, "and more regular one may be preferred." 1 Chitty, C. L., 304.

Motion to sever. Here may be noticed a motion which will regularly be made at the arraignment, *viz.* the motion by one of two or more accused to be allowed to "sever," *i. e.* to be tried separately from the other or others. Except where the essence of the charge is combined between the parties, (as in mutiny,) the motion may properly be made for good cause shown. (See Manual, 496; Pratt, 68; English of Procedure, 15.) The more common grounds of motions for severance are that the mover desires to avail himself on his trial of the testimony of one of one or more of his co-accused, or of the testimony of the other, or that the defences of the other accused are antagonistic to his own, or that the evidence as to them will in some manner prejudice his defence. This motion has most rarely been presented to the court in military practice. It was made by several of the accused on the military commission of Milligan, Bowles, and others, in Indiana, 1864, and by McRae, on the trial, by a similar tribunal, of McRae, and others, in North Carolina, in 1867, but in each case was over-

III. SPECIAL PLEAS IN BAR.

Under this Title will be considered, as special pleas in bar trial in military cases—The Plea of the Statute of Limitation The Plea of Former Trial for the same offence ; and the Plea Pardon. To these will be added a reference to certain Inadmissible Special Pleas.

THE PLEA OF THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.

As pointed out in Chapter VIII, the objection, in a military case, that the statutory limitation of prosecution has taken effect is, by the present weight of authority, not one going to the jurisdiction of the court, but *matter of defence* only. As such, while it may be taken advantage of upon the general issue,¹ it is probably disposed of at the outset of the proceedings by the special plea now to be considered.

The Statute. The military statute of limitations is the 11th of the Articles of war, which is expressed as follows :—“*No person shall be liable to be tried and punished by a general court-martial for any offence which appears to have been committed more than two years before the issuing of the order for such trial, unless, on account of having absented himself, or of some other manifest impediment, he shall not have been amenable to justice within that period.*”

The original of this provision in our law was Article 88 of the code of 1806. The present is substantially identical with its earlier form.

The general rule of limitation in the British law² is, that a person shall be tried for an offence committed “more than three years before the date at which his trial begins.” The beginning of the actual trial is a better date than that of the issuing of the order for the court fixed by our Article, since the latter allows an indefinite interval between the date of the order and that at which a trial had thereunder without the right of the government

ruled. Where the *prosecution* desires to use one of two or more persons accused as a witness against another or others, the practice is not to move to sever but to enter a *nol. pros.* as to such one.

1. 1 Bishop, C. P. § 799; Wharton, C. P. & P. § 317.

2. Army Act § 161.

prosecute being affected.¹ The *date of the arraignment* would probably be the best that could be selected from which to reckon back to the commission of the offence.²

Scope of the Limitation—Application to Desertion.

is held by the great weight of authority that the statute applies equally and alike to all military offences. It is only in regard to its application to cases of *desertion* that there has ever been any question. That it includes desertion has been held by the Judge Advocates General³ and the Attorneys General⁴ in repeated rulings. The Attorneys General, though their views to the time from which the limitation begins to run in such cases have, as will presently be indicated, undergone a modification, have never departed from the original conclusion that this offence was not excepted from the operation of the statute.

As to the Courts—the affirmative of the question was maintained by Choate J., U. S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York, in 1880, in *Davison's Case*,⁵ in the following intended terms:—"It is insisted on the part of the respondent that 'absence' is here meant absence from the post of duty and that this article has no application to desertions. It is certainly a startling proposition that there is no limitation at all upon prosecutions for the offence of desertion; that one who has once been a deserter is subject during the whole of his natural life to be brought before a military court and tried and punished for this offence even in extreme old age. Yet this is seriously contended by the learned counsel for the respondent. The statute does not require, nor in my opinion admit of so strict and narrow a construction. There is nothing in this article itself clearly indicating that it does not extend to every military offence. As it is the only article limiting the time of prosecutions the presumption is very strong that it extends to every military offence; for,

¹ Captain Howe's Case, VI Opins. At. Gen., 512. And see *Id.*, 513; G. C. M. O. 85, Dept. of the Mo., 1869.

² This is the date fixed in the Bill to amend the 103d Article, which passed the Senate in 1880.

³ DIGEST, 85; Annual Reports of Judge Advocate General to Secretary of War for 1877, 1878, 1879, and 1880.

⁴ XIII Opins., 462; XIV Id., 265; XV Id., 152; XVI Id., 170, [Opinions of Attys. Gen. Williams, Taft and Devens, and Sol. Bristow.]

⁵ *In re Davison*, 4 Fed. Rep. 507.

with the single exception of the crime of murder, the almost universal policy of the criminal law is to prescribe a term within which the offender shall be brought to trial."

In the same case, as heard in the U. S. Circuit Court on appeal, in 1884,¹ Wallace J., though not directly passing upon the point, is deemed to indicate quite clearly his opinion that the offence of desertion is within the general rule of the Article.

Meantime, in *White's Case*,² in 1883, the U. S. Circuit Court for the Ninth Circuit, had expressed, *obiter*, its concurrence in the views of Choate J., as to the operation of the statute. "Were the question properly before us," says Judge Sawyer, "we should have no difficulty in reaching the same conclusion as that attained in *Davison's Case*," &c.

To these opinions may be added that of the Committee on Military Affairs of the Senate, which, in recommending the passage of an amended Article, more definite in its terms than the present form and extending the period of the limitation in cases of desertion, has endorsed in decided language the conclusion of the Attorneys General and Judge Advocate General.³

These conclusions, however, have not heretofore had the support of the War Department. At an early period the theory seems to have been adopted in that Department and by army commanders that, by the term "unless by reason of having absented himself," employed in the Article,⁴ cases of desertion were excluded from its operation, and that therefore *no limitation to prosecutions for desertion was prescribed by the code*. This view, though in a few instances departed from, or not followed, in Orders both of the War Department and of the military departments,⁵ was adhered to and acted upon in the great majority of cases down to 1877, when, the question being under special consideration, the following decision was made on the subject by the Secretary of War: "War Department, January 20, 1877. I decide that the old interpretation of the late 88th, now 103d, of the Rules and Articles of War, under which a deserter might be tried by court-martial without regard to the length of his absence notwithstanding

1. 21 Fed. Rep. 618.

2. *In re White*, 9 Sawyer, 49.

3. Report, No. 42, Senate, 46th Cong., 2d Sess.

4. See the construction of this term as given *post*.

5. As in G. O. 17 of 1834; G. C. M. O. 63 of 1874; G. O. 52, D of the South, 1870; G. C. M. O. 11, Div. Pacific & Dept. of Cal., 1871.

the limitation clause in the said Article, shall continue in force. J. D. Cameron, Secretary of War."

This decision was never published in General Orders. It is not known, however, to have been withdrawn and is supposed to be still, (1886,) maintained.¹

The result is that, at the present time, on the question of the application of the 103d Article to the offence of desertion, the affirmative, so far as has been made known, is held by the law officers of the Government and the U. S. Courts, and the negative, apparently, by the War Department and, in concurrence with or deference to its views, by most or all of the department commanders.² Courts-martial, while not *bound* by such views, have also in general deferred to the same, and have commonly overruled the special plea of the statute when offered, as it not unfrequently is, by alleged deserters upon arraignment.³

When the Limitation begins to run in Cases of Desertion. Upon the construction, however, that the Article applies to desertion, the question as to when the limitation begins to run in bar of prosecution for that offence has been much discussed. Early in the recent war, it was held by Judge Advocate General Holt, in reviewing the matter of the proper interpretation of the Article, that the two years should be considered as commencing with the day on which the deserter originally absented himself without authority and with the *animus* characterizing the offence; and this view was at first apparently fully adopted by the Attorney General.⁴ In a later opinion, however, he took the ground, based in part upon the definition of the offence by foreign writers,⁵ that desertion should be regarded as a *continu-*

1. It seems, however, to have admitted of some variation. See G. O. 1, Dept. of Cal., 1884.

2. It was held otherwise, however, by the Dept. Commander, Dept. of Cal., in 1883, in view of the decision, at San Francisco, of the U. S. Circuit Court in White's Case. See G. C. M. O. 66, 70, 118, Dept. of Cal., 1883. And compare Do. 19, Dept. of the Mo., 1883.

3. The plea, however, has been sustained in several recent cases. See G. C. M. O. 75, Div. Pacific & Dept. of Cal., 1879; Do. 15, Id., 180; Do. 12, Dept. of the Columbia, 1884; Do. 86, Dept. of Dakota, 84.

4. XIV Opins., 265.

5. See XV Opins., 159. And compare Du Mesquil, Dictionnaire de la Justice Militaire—Desertion.

ing offence, and that the period of the limitation should therefore be viewed as beginning not till the end of the term for which the soldier has enlisted,—unless indeed he be apprehended or surrender himself prior to the end of such term, in which case the time would run from the date of apprehension or surrender. But in *Davison's Case*, in the U. S. District Court,¹ this refinement was rejected, and the view of the Judge Advocate General adopted; Judge Choate well observing that “the whole effect of the limitation” cannot properly “be taken away on the theory that the desertion may be considered for some purposes to be a continuing offence,” but that the offence is to be regarded as “complete for the purpose of this (the 103d) Article” on and from the day of the original unauthorized absents of himself by the soldier. In the same case in the Circuit Court,² Judge Wallace while viewing the offence as “a continuous one,” declines to pass upon the question when the limitation commences to run but holds, with the same Court in *White's Case*,³ that this is a question for the *court-martial* to determine; the limitation being held, (as has been set forth in Chapter VIII,) to constitute a “matter of defense” to be pleaded, or otherwise taken advantage of on the military trial. In *White's Case*, the Court, as already noticed, intimates its full concurrence in the views of Judge Choate “as to the effect of the statute,” and may therefore be considered as adopting his view that in applying the limitation to desertion, that offence is not to be treated as a “continuing” one.

Desertion as a continuing offence. That the theory—it may here be remarked—that desertion is a “continuing offence” in law, is more fanciful than substantial, will, it is believed, be perceived on comparing it with the true continuing offences known to the common law, with which it will be found to have little in common. The principle, for example, applicable to the maintaining of a nuisance, the most familiar of the technical continuing offences, that an acquittal or conviction of the offence as committed on a certain day is “no bar to an indictment for continuing the nuisance on a subsequent day,”⁴ can have no

1. *In re Davison*, 4 Fed. Rep. 507.

2. 21 Fed. Rep. 618.

3. 9 Sawyer, 49.

4. *Beckwith v. Griswold*, 29 Barb. 294.

application to the military offence of desertion. The error, indeed, for such it is regarded, of classing desertion with the continuing offences, or even as a *quasi* continuing offence, has arisen, as it is considered by the author, from a misapprehension of the nature and definition of desertion itself, and from confusing it with the lesser offence of absence-without-leave contained within it. Desertion consists not merely in an unauthorized act, but in such an act accompanied at the moment of its commission by a certain specific intent. That a soldier has absented himself without authority does not make him a deserter: to be such he must have absented himself not only without authority but with an intention not to return. Whenever a desertion is committed it involves of course the minor offence of an absenting without authority, and the unauthorized absence thus commenced *continues* till the offender is arrested or surrenders himself. Thus the absence without authority, ('without leave,' as it is commonly characterized,) may be viewed as a *quasi* "continuing offence," being committed anew on every day of the period of absence. But the desertion is an offence consummated and concluded on the day on which the peculiar *animus* of the offence is entertained and executed, *viz.* the day of the original unauthorized absenting with the deliberate purpose of abandoning the service. On that day the specific military crime is in law complete: thereafter, though the illegal absence always continues, the offender is, properly speaking, a deserter only in the colloquial sense that a thief is a thief till he is caught and tried. Thus, in brief, the notion that desertion is a "continuing offence" is believed to be due simply to a confounding of the principal and higher offence with the minor offence included within it; the latter, (relatively speaking,) being the "continuing" offence, not the former.

If desertion is not properly a continuing offence in law, or rather unless it is such a continuing offence, the view of the Judge Advocate General, originally supported by the Attorney General, and adopted by Judge Choate, that the limitation in all cases begins to run from the day of the first absenting of him-

1. That every desertion includes an absence-without-leave; that soldiers charged with desertion not unfrequently plead guilty of absence-without-leave only, and may be, and not unfrequently are, convicted of the lesser offence under a charge of the greater—is law and practice too familiar to the military mind to require to be dwelt upon.

self by the soldier without authority and with the *animus non revertendi*, as being the day of the actual commission and consummation of the desertion,—is necessarily the correct one under the terms of the Article. But while this is also the view of the author, he fully appreciates the desirableness, in consideration of the contrariety of opinion on the subject, of some legislation, similar in purpose to that heretofore initiated, which shall so clearly define the law of limitations in military cases as to preclude any further controversy as to its construction.

Construction of the Proviso of the Article—Absence—Manifest impediment. The effect of the proviso or exception with which the Article concludes, *viz.*—“*unless by reason of having absented himself, or of some other manifest impediment, he shall not have been amenable to justice within that period,*”—has been quite fully considered in the opinions of the Attorneys General and Judge Advocate General, and in Davison's Case above cited.

“*Having absented himself.*” As to this term, it was originally held by the Judge Advocate General that it was to be construed with reference to the limits of the jurisdiction in general of military courts, and that, as these limits were the limits of the federal domain, the *absence* here contemplated meant absence from the United States or commorancy in a foreign country. This view was somewhat qualified by the Attorney General who held that this absence “meant absence from the reach or jurisdiction of the military authorities,” or absence “where the military authorities by reasonable diligence could not make” the party “amenable to justice.” Judge Choate, however, in the case of Davison, again adopts the ruling of the Judge Advocate General. “The language,” he says, “of this statute of limitations must be construed with reference to the use of similar language in other statutes of limitation. The ‘absence’ here intended is obviously from the context such an absence as interposes an impediment to the bringing of the offender to trial and punishment. It means absence from the jurisdiction of military courts; that is, absence from the United States.”²

1. XIV Opins., 267.

2. In the Bill to amend the Article, which passed the Senate in 1881 the proviso in regard to absence is—“unless he may meanwhile have absented himself from the United States.”

"Other manifest impediment." As to the significance of this term, there is no material difference of view among the authorities. Judge Choate observes in *Davison's Case*:—"The other manifest impediments' referred to in the statute as being such as shall have prevented the offender from being amenable to justice, are such impediments only as operate to prevent the military court from exercising its jurisdiction over him, as for instance his being continuously a prisoner in the hands of the enemy, or of his being imprisoned under sentence of a civil court for crime and the like." The Attorney General says of "manifest impediment" that it "means something akin to absence—want of power, or physical inability to bring the party argued to trial."¹ Incidentally it has been held that a enlistment by a soldier, upon deserting, in another regiment of the army or in the marine corps, could not constitute an impediment but the reverse, since the soldier, by the second enlistment, placed himself the more directly within the reach and control of the military authorities.² It has also been held that mere concealment of evidence or identity, or other fraud practiced by the deserter, by means of which he has avoided being brought to trial within the period of limitation, is not an "impediment" in the sense of the article:³ it is indeed the business of the Government, supplied as it is with the forces and facilities for the purpose, to follow up a deserter with such diligence as to preclude, if practicable, such a result. Laches cannot be imputed to the Government;⁴ on the other hand it is stopped from claiming that because not informed of an offence it could not prosecute it.⁵ It need hardly be added that a delay

1. XIV Opins., 267.

2. DIGEST, 87; XIV Opins. At. Gen., 265; G. C. M. O. 63, War Dept., 1874.

3. DIGEST, 87; XIV Opins. At. Gen., 52, 266-8.

4. U. S. v. Kirkpatrick, 9 Wheaton, 720; Raymond v. U. S., 14 Hatchford, 52.

5. See DIGEST, 87-8. In a case in G. O. 33, Dept. of the East, 1869, which it was claimed on the part of the prosecution that as "the Government did not know of the offence early enough to bring the accused to trial within two years," there had been an impediment in the sense of the Article, the reviewing commander, Gen. McDowell, well decided—"The accused cannot be deprived of his legal right by the inattention, delay, neglect, oversight, or any other fault or failing on the part of the Government. He is not responsible for them, and cannot be made to suffer by reason of them."

to prosecute beyond the period of the limitation, caused the fact that it was not convenient or deemed advantageous for the Government to prosecute before, can clearly not be treated "impediment." The party, if he is to be tried, is, as ruled by Attorney General Black, *entitled* to "a trial within the two years; he cannot be deprived of that right at the option of those who have the power to try him. If," it is added, "his superior officers could create impediments which would justify a prosecution beyond the prescribed period, the time of limitation would be a mere matter of discretion."¹

Pleading and Procedure in view of the Article The statutory limitation is, according to the weight of authority, merely "matter of defence," it is not necessary, in a case in which the two years have expired, to allege in the specification the facts relied upon to except the case from the operation of the statute. Though it affirmatively appears from the specification in connection with the convening order, that the period of limitation has fully elapsed, the charge is yet good in law, the specification not subject to be struck out on motion. Assuming facts exist they may well be averred, but to aver them is not essential either to give jurisdiction or to complete the pleading.

The specification and order showing, (as, where the facts are such that they almost invariably will,) or the fact being, that the limitation has taken effect, the accused, if he desires to raise the objection, (for he may, according to the late rulings, *waive* it if he sees fit,²) will (preferably) proceed to raise it by his special plea orally or in writing; supporting the plea, where the essential facts does not appear from the record, by appropriate testimony. If the plea being made, and proved by the record or otherwise, it devolves upon the prosecution to rebut it by evidence of the absence or other impediment as shall be sufficient to except the case from the operation of the limitation.

Inasmuch as the objection may also be taken advantage of under the *general issue*,³ the prosecution should, in any

1. IX Opins., 184.

2. That the opinion of Atty. Gen. Wirt, (1 Opins., 383,) that the limitation could not be waived, has been in effect overruled by decisions of the U. S. Circuit Court, see Chapter VIII.

3. See *ante*.

ness the accused expressly waives his right, be prepared to move, and should prove in the course of the trial, the excepting fact or facts.¹

The Limitation not affected by Provisions of other Articles—Article 48. It has been ruled by the Judge Advocate General and the Attorney General that the provision of the 48th Article of war, that a deserter shall be liable to render service to the United States for a period equal to that of his unauthorized absence, and shall remain triable for his desertion although the term of his enlistment may have elapsed prior to his apprehension, &c., cannot affect the operation of the 103d Article by extending the period of the limitation in cases of deserters.² The two Articles, the 48th and 103d, are sections of the same code and, not being necessarily repugnant, both must be allowed full effect; and, in the absence of any expression to the contrary, the former provision must be regarded as subject to the general restrictions contained in the latter.

Article 60. So, as has been held by the same authorities,³ the provision of Art. 60, by which certain offenders are made amenable to justice after their discharge or other separation from the military service, is to be applied subject to the limitation of Art. 103.

Article 71. It might indeed be argued that this Article, in declaring that officers once arrested and released from arrest according to its terms "may be tried within twelve months after such release," rendered such officers subject to trial only within that period, and this notwithstanding that the two years' limitation of Art. 103 might still have a considerable time to run. But both Articles are now embraced together in the same code, all force is to be given to each so far as practicable. It is therefore deemed to be the reasonable construction to be placed upon the concluding clause of Art. 71 to view it as if there were added hereto the words—"subject to the provisions of Art. 103;" the effect thus given to it being that the "twelve months" are

1. See G. O. 68 of 1829; Do. 52, Dept. of the South, 1870.

2. DIGEST, 88; XIII Opins. At. Gen., 462; XV Id., 156; XVI Id., 396. And see *In re Bird*, 2 Sawyer, 33.

3. DIGEST, 88; XIV Opins. At. Gen., 53.

neither to extend nor reduce the time within which an offence is held amenable to trial by the latter Article.

It will thus be seen that the military statute of limitation admits of no exceptions to its operation other than such as are indicated in the statute itself.

THE PLEA OF FORMER TRIAL FOR THE SAME OFFENCE.

Similar at Military and at Criminal Law. This is the plea by which an accused party avails himself of the principle incorporated in the 102d Article of the military code, *vis.*—"A person shall be tried a second time for the same offence."

In the criminal procedure the defendant takes advantage of this principle by means of one of the two pleas of former acquittal, (*autrefois acquit*), or former conviction, (*autrefois convict*), according as he has been acquitted or convicted at the former trial. But these two pleas are governed by the same rules, each is but the declaration of the same fact—that a trial has been had. The rulings thereupon by the civil courts will therefore be applicable to similar cases at military law.

Former Trial and "Jeopardy" Identical. That a man shall be liable to be twice tried or punished for the same offence, was an ancient maxim of the common law which derived it from a still earlier period.¹ Whether or not recognizable, it has been supposed, in Magna Charta,² it may certainly be traced in the precept of the Roman civil law—*non bis in idem*.³ Brought over to this country by our ancestors as one of their common law privileges,⁴ it was incorporated in the Constitution of the United States in a form similar to that in which it originally appears in the early cases and writings in criminal law,⁵ as follows—"No shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice in jeopardy of life or limb." And the same or a similar provision is contained in the Constitutions of a majority of the

1. 1 Chitty, C. L. 403; State v. Elden, 41 Maine, 169.

2. U. S. v. Gilbert, 2 Sumner, 38, 42.

3. U. S. v. Gilbert, 1872; Burns v. People, 1 Park. 184; State v. Townsend, 2 Harr. 343.

4. Klock v. People, 2 Park. 682.

5. McGinnis v. State, 2 Humph. 40; State v. Cooper, 1 Green, 3.

6. U. S. v. Gilbert, 2 Sumner, 39-41; Vaux's Case, 4 Coke, 45.

That it takes this form is explained by the fact that, at the time of its origin, all the considerable offences in regard to which the right of defence would be asserted were felonies punishable by death, either by hanging or by dismemberment.¹ In the present state of the law; indeed, the provision, as worded in the Constitution, is limited strictly to but two or three crimes, as treason, murder, piracy; but, construing it in the light of its original bearing and manifest spirit, the U. S. courts generally have viewed it as covering in principle all other crimes,² and have held the phrase "put in jeopardy" to mean practically the same as *tried*;³ giving to such provision substantially the effect of the provision expressed in the military statute.

Meaning of "Tried" and "Trial." In so ruling, these courts have further held that the "jeopardy" or "trial" means the execution of a case to a verdict; that unless the case has proceeded at least to an acquittal or a conviction, there has been no jeopardy and therefore no jeopardy.⁴ Similarly the word "tried" is to be interpreted as meaning *duly prosecuted before a court martial to a legal conviction or acquittal*. After such a conviction on the Article prohibits a further trial of the accused (as will hereafter be indicated,) by his own waiver and

Material whether there has been a Sentence adjudged. It is further held by the weight of authority that, to

n. v. Roby, 12 Pick. 502; *State v. Elden*, 41 Me. 169; *People v. Win*, 18 Johns. 200.

S. v. Gibert, 2 Sumner, 19, 45; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 990.

S. v. Perez, 5 Wheaton, 579; *U. S. v. Haskell*, 4 Washington, 38; *S. v. Gibert*, 2 Sumner, 38; *U. S. v. Shoemaker*, 2 McLean, 38; *S. v. Watkins*, 3 Cranch C., 443; *U. S. v. Riley*, 5 Blatchford, 100; *Opins. At. Gen.*, 294; DIGEST, 83. "This clause in the Constitution may be considered equivalent to a declaration of the common law principle that no person shall be twice *tried* for the same offence." *Roby*, 12 Pick. 502. It is "an explicit and solemn recognition of the maxim of the common law that no man shall be twice tried for the same offence." *Hartung v. People*, 26 N. Y. 182. [It may be noted, that the rulings of the *State* courts on this subject are variant; holding that a prisoner is "in jeopardy" when he has once been tried before a jury duly empanelled and sworn.]

authorities cited in last note. A verdict of a *jury* is indeed essential: the trial may have been had before a judge similarly empowered to hear and determine. *State v. Hodgkins*, 42 N. H. 476; *Andrews*, 27 Mo. 267.

complete the trial, no judgment or sentence is requisite. The while in the military procedure a sentence properly follows once and as a matter of course upon a conviction, a court-martial will properly hold an accused to have been "tried" in the sense of the 102d Article, when he has been duly acquitted or convicted, without regard to whether, in a case of conviction, a sentence or a legal sentence has been adjudged.²

Immaterial whether any or what Action has been taken on the Proceedings by the Reviewing Officer. Further, where the accused in a military case has been once acquitted or convicted, he has been "tried" in the sense of the Article, although no action may have been taken upon the finding or proceedings by the reviewing authority. Nor has he been any the less "tried" where the finding has been formally disapproved by such authority.³ For the finding is no less a confirmation in law of the *trial*, though, from a cause beyond the control both of the accused and the court, such finding has been rendered ineffectual.

To Sustain the Plea, the former Trial must have been a legal one.

1. It must have been before a competent court having jurisdiction. If the former court either had no legal origin or existence, or was without jurisdiction of the offence or

² This was the view of Justice Story, in *U. S. v. Gibert*, 2 Summ. 38, with which is the very decided weight of modern authority.

³ So it is quite immaterial whether an adequate or inadequate punishment may have ensued. DIGEST, 85.

⁴ DIGEST, 84. And see Macomb, 72; O'Brien, 277; Bombay, 48. A contrary ruling was made on this point by the Secretary of War in 1844, in the case of Lieut. D. C. Buell, on the ground that a disapproval renders a finding inoperative. And a similar view was pressed by Gen. Canby in G. O. 32, Dept. of La., 1866. But though a finding may be nullified by the act of a higher power, it is no less a complete and legal conclusion by the *court of the trial*; and to hold that a finding, if disapproved, cannot be pleaded in bar of another trial would be to subject an officer or soldier to be tried a second time or an indefinite number of times at the will of his commander, where he was acquitted when the latter thought he should be convicted, or if convicted, was in the commander's opinion, punished with sufficient severity. But Articles of war, while making an approval by the commander necessary to the execution of the judgment of the court. (Art. 104.) have not provided that such action shall be essential to complete a *trial*.

trial was a nullity, there was in law no trial, and the plea cannot be sustained.¹ Thus if, upon a second trial, it appeared that the alleged "trial" was an error by a "court of inquiry,"² or by a court not duly organized or composed—as where it was convened by an unauthorized person, or was made up, (in whole or in material part,) of persons not qualified to sit on the trial; or that it was a military or garrison court of a capital offence, or by a court of an offence cognizable exclusively by a civil court, in any such case there would have been no former trial, and the plea would not be tenable.

Former indictment, or charge, must have been valid. It has further been uniformly held that the indictment upon which the accused was first brought to trial must have been valid and sufficient in law, and that if it was in substance defective there has been no jeopardy, and the plea can be based.³ And the test applied to the indictment in such cases is—whether the same was one upon which a judgment could have been pronounced, or a judgment not liable to be reversed on account of defects in the indictment.⁴ Similarly, in a case of a military charge without specification, by reason of the omission of some element of the offence, if the indictment is substantially defective, an acquittal or con-

ns., c. 35, s. 10; 1 Chitty, C. L., 458; Wharton, C. P. & F. 2d ed. v. Fassett, 27 Maine, 282; State v. Elden, 41 Id. 170; Jenness, 11 N. H. 162; Com. v. Roby, 12 Pick. 502; XI Mass., 140; De Hart, 141; DIGEST, 83. "We think the indictment, not having been tried before a tribunal legally constituted, may be brought to trial before a competent tribunal; this is not the case of re-hearing the charge, but a case where there has been no trial at all, the court having been illegally constituted." Opinion of Crown Lawyers in Boatswain Maxwell's case, a naval court-martial in 1828. Hickman, 124. In G. O. 16, 1865, it was held that there had been no "former trial" if the indictment, at the time of the supposed trial, had in fact been defective, and had therefore no legal existence. And see G. O. 72

ston v. Jenness, 11 N. H. 156; Wilkes v. Dinsman, 7

ns., c. 35, s. 8; 1 Chitty, C. L., 452, 462; 2 Gabbett, 334; P. & P. § 507; U. S. v. Shoemaker, 2 McLean, 117, 120. ns., c. 35, s. 8; 1 Chitty, C. L., 454; Com. v. Olds, 5 Litt.

viction upon such charge will not protect the accused against further prosecution for the offence intended to be but not all. So, a charge upon which an accused has been acquitted or convicted may be so vague and indefinite as that the finding thereon will be no bar to a second trial for the same properly pleaded.²

3. The proceedings of the former trial must have without fatal defect. To make tenable the plea and consideration, the proceedings of the former trial must have "according to law;"³ or, as it is expressed by Bishop,⁴ "preliminary things of record," necessary to sustain the must have been "complete." Thus if upon a military trial court is omitted to be sworn as provided in the 84th Art for any cause is reduced to less than five members at the trial or its proceedings are invalidated by other fatal defect, acquittal or conviction will not constitute a legal trial plea bar of a subsequent prosecution.

4. The finding itself must have been complete and valid. It may happen that although the proceedings of the former hearing were regular and legal down to the finding may have been so erroneous or imperfect as not to constitute legal jeopardy.⁵ Thus a jury, in convicting, may find only part of the matters put in issue in the indictment;⁶ or may

1. See DIGEST, 84.

2. See De Hart, 145. And compare U. S. v. Shoemaker, 21 120; Com. v. Hatton, 3 Grat. 623.

3. Com. v. Goodenough, Thach. 133.

4. 1 C. L. § 1020. There must not have been what is known as "mis-trial." See DIGEST, 84.

5. See III Opins. At. Gen., 398.

6. DIGEST, 84. And compare Brown v. State, 8 Blackf. 561; it appearing from the record "that the cause had been tried by a jury, the court held the trial to be a nullity, set aside the judgment and remanded the cause for another trial." And see 1 Bishop, § 1040.

7. See Macomb, 41.

8. The accused must be *legitimo modo acquietatus*. Vaux v. Kirk, 4 Coke, 45.

9. "No judgment can be given on a verdict which leaves untried any part of the matter put in issue." King v. Hayes, Ld. Ray

cial finding omitting to include some essential element of crime, as malice;¹ or may find the defendant guilty of an offence wholly distinct in law and fact from that charged.² So, a court-martial may find the accused not guilty of the specification where there is but one, or not guilty of all the specifications, yet guilty of the charge;³ or not guilty of the specific offence charged but guilty of another and distinct specific offence included in it;⁴ or not guilty of "conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline," but guilty of a specific offence;⁵ or it may in its finding of guilty on the charge make exceptions from the specification or charge as not to leave enough to constitute the offence charged or any offence.⁶ In all cases there will have been no legal finding and therefore no trial upon which the present plea can be predicated.

continuance before Finding not equivalent to Acquittal or amounting to Jeopardy. It remains to notice the principle, applicable equally to civil and military cases, that where, instead of a complete trial on the merits, the proceedings are discontinued by some interlocutory action, the accused, though not in fault, is not to be regarded as having been acquitted or tried in jeopardy. Thus where an indictment has been duly

¹ See *U. S. v. Watkins*, 3 Cranch, 570; *State v. Sutton*, 4 Gill, 497. Where the verdict is not "responsive to the indictment." *State v. Egan*, 17 Iowa, 232.

² *Webber v. State*, 10 Mo. 40.

³ *Com. v. Smith*, 2 Va. Cas. 327; *State v. Spurgin*, 1 McCord, 252; *State v. Valentine*, 6 Yerg. 533; *State v. Mead*, 4 Blackf. 309; *Wright v. State*, 5 Ind. 527.

⁴ See this form of finding disapproved as a nullity in G. O. 60, Army of the Potomac, 1861; Do. 95, 107, Id., 1862; Do. 6, Dept. of Cal., 1862; Do. 9, Dept. of the Gulf, 1873.

⁵ See this finding similarly disapproved in G. O. 14, 27, Army of the Potomac, 1864; Do. 231, Fifth Mil. Dist., 1869.

⁶ See this finding similarly disapproved in G. C. M. O. 78, Dept. of the Gulf, 1874; Do. 6, Dept. of the Gulf, 1876.

See findings of this nature disapproved in G. O. 34, Dept. of the Gulf, 1863; Do. 20, 54, Northern Dept., 1864; Do. 28, Dept. of the N. H., 1865; Do. 41, Dept. of the Platte, 1870; Do. 6, Id., 1871.

It should be noted here, as applicable generally, that though for any cause mentioned the trial may not have been a legal one, yet if the accused, having been convicted thereon, has *undergone a sentence* upon adjudged, he is not again amenable to trial for the same offence. ¹ *Bishop*, C. L. § 1023; *Com. v. Loud*, 3 Met. 328.

abated by the entry of a *nolle prosequi*, or on a motion to quash a demurrer, or other proceeding;¹ or where the trial has been broken off by reason of the death or disability of a juror or the judge, or of the defendant himself;² or where by reason of an irreconcilable difference of opinion among the jurors the jury has been discharged;³ the defendant has not been legally "tried" and cannot plead *autrefois acquit* upon a separate trial for the same offence. So, at military law, neither a mere arraignment nor an arrest followed by a discharge without trial,⁴ nor a service of charges withdrawn or dropped without prosecution, nor a withdrawal of the charges after arraignment or pending trial,⁵ nor a discontinuance of the proceedings, by the order of the convening authority, for any cause before a finding,⁶ nor a permanent interruption of the same by reason of war or other exigency, nor a failure of the court to agree upon a finding, followed by a dissolution⁷—will amount to an acquittal or a "trial" of the accused.

The Offence for which the Former Trial was had must be the same as that which is the Subject of the Pending Trial. This, or the shorter phrase—"the offences must be the same," is substantially the form in which the proposition is usually expressed.⁸ Strictly, however, the more accurate statement would be, that, to sustain this plea, the offences must be either:—(1.) Identical, or (2.) So related, from the fact that one is included in the other, that an acquittal or conviction of the one necessarily puts the accused in jeopardy of the other.

Identical Offences. The identity must, it is held, be one both *in law and in fact*; for, as remarked by Chief Justice Shaw

1. *People v. Barrett*, 1 Johns. 69; *Stevens v. Fassett*, 27 Maine, 281; 1 Bishop, C. L. § 1014, 1021.

2. 1 Bishop, C. L. § 1032; Wharton, C. P. & P. § 508; *U. S. v. Shoemaker*, 2 McLean, 117; *U. S. v. Haskell*, 4 Washington, 402.

3. *U. S. v. Perez*, 9 Wheaton, 579; 1 Bishop, C. L. § 1033, and cases cited.

4. Compare *State v. Benham*, 7 Conn. 418.

5. De Hart, 142, 145; Benét, 100; 1 Opins. At. Gen., 294; *Marston v. Jenness*, 11 N. H. 156.

6. DIGEST, 83, 84.

7. DIGEST, 84.

8. DIGEST, 84.

9. See 1 Bishop, C. L. § 1049.

Commonwealth v. Roby,¹—"It is obvious that there may be similarity in the facts where there is a substantial legal difference in the nature of the crimes; and, on the contrary, there may be considerable diversity of circumstances where the legal character of the offences is the same. As where most of the facts are identical, but by adding, withdrawing, or changing some one the nature of the crime is changed."

The identity need be *substantial* only:² it is not essential that indictments or charges should be expressed in the same language. The circumstance alone that different words are used in setting forth the offences does not indicate that they are not the same. For the same offence may be expressed in different terms in indictments or charges.³ In a case of doubt, the usual test for identity is, the determination of the question whether the same evidence will support both.⁴

Cases of offences held not identical but distinct.

By the application of this test, the offences are ascertained to be not identical but distinct, a plea of former trial cannot be sustained.⁵ Offences relating to the same subject matter may yet be quite distinct in that the one is not characterized by the essential fact and legal element necessary to constitute the other. For example, a trial for *embezzlement* cannot be pleaded in bar of a trial for the same act charged as *larceny*, or *vice versa*, since the former offence, which consists in the appropriation of property by the party to whose charge it has been committed by the owner, is quite distinct from the latter which consists in receiving without the consent and against the will of the owner. The two offences of the larceny of certain articles and of receiving and concealing of the same articles; these offences are distinct in that the latter is characterized by an *animus* other than that of conversion to the party's own use, an

¹ Pick. 503. And see *State v. Elden*, 41 Maine, 170; *Burns v. State*, 1 Park. 182.

² See 2 Gabbett, 330.

³ Bishop, C. L. § 1050. And see *Wilson v. State*, 24 Conn. 57, 69. Bishop, C. L. § 1051; *Com. v. Olds*, 5 Litt. 139; *Com. v. Curtis*, 207; *State v. Birmingham*, 1 Busbee, 122; *Durham v. People*, 173; *Simco v. State*, 9 Texas Ap. 338; *Rex v. Sheen*, 2 C. &

Chitty, C. L., 452.

essential feature in larceny.¹ So, the offences of larceny of personal property and burglary with intent to commit a larceny of the same property are held to be so distinct that a trial for the one cannot be pleaded in bar to a trial for the other.² So, a conviction or acquittal of a simple assault and battery has been held to be no bar to a trial for the same assault with intent to commit a felony.³ And a conviction of assault and battery has been declared no bar to an indictment for manslaughter for the killing of the same person who had meanwhile died of the assault.⁴

Further, two or more offences, though committed at the same time, by the same act, and as parts of the same transaction, may, if separable, be wholly distinct in law, so that a conviction or acquittal of one cannot be pleaded in bar to a trial for another. Thus a person by the same blow, shooting, or other violence, may kill or injure two different individuals; but a trial for the murder, manslaughter, or assault and battery of one of them will furnish no defence to a trial for the same act committed against the other.⁵ So, where articles of property belonging to different owners are stolen at the same time by the same person, a conviction or acquittal on an indictment for stealing property of one of the owners will not, as it has been held,⁶ (though the authorities on this point are variant,) bar a trial for stealing articles belonging to another.

These remarks and rulings are applicable to military cases. To add instances from the military service of distinct offences committed at the same time and in and by the same act,—the offence of mutiny, or joining in mutiny, may involve with it a violation of Art. 21, so the offence of behaving with disrespect to a commanding officer may concur with that of a disobedience of his order, so the offence of disobedience of orders, or of absence without leave, may concur with the offence of misbehavior towards the enemy. Yet a trial for one of these concomitant

¹ *Yesh v. State*, 30 A. 220.

² *W. v. State*, 12 Conn. 57. *State v. Warner*, 14 Ind. 57. *Howland v. State*, 5 Conn. 122.

³ *State v. Thompson*, 10 Ind. 223.

⁴ *State v. Thompson*, 10 Ind. 223. 1 Bishop, C. L. § 1059.

⁵ *W. v. State*, 12 Conn. 57. *State v. Standifer*, 5 Port. 53. *Angell v. State*, 14 Vt. 273. *Greenwood v. State*, 64 Ind. 290.

⁶ *W. v. State*, 12 Conn. 57. 1 Bishop, C. L. § 1061, and cases cited.

nces would not operate as a legal bar to a subsequent prosecution for the other.

Military and civil crimes involved in same act. A rather class of offences, apparently identical but distinct in law, may here be noticed. These are the offences which, though involved in the same act, are distinct in this that, while one is an offence against the ordinary criminal law of a State or of the United States, the other is a breach of military discipline made exclusively punishable by the Articles of war.¹ Thus a soldier convicted by a general court-martial, under Art. 21 or 22, of an offering of violence or mutinous act which resulted in the killing of a superior officer, would remain liable to an indictment for murder in a State or U. S. Court, on account of the homicide involved; and *vice versa*. Where indeed the offences are crimes which military courts are invested with jurisdiction concurrently with the criminal courts, (as, for example, the crimes cognizable by courts-martial under Art. 58, in time of war,) the same is not distinct but identical in law, and an acquittal or conviction of one of such offences, or rather of the actual single offence, in a civil court will be a complete bar to a prosecution of the same in a military court, and *vice versa*.²

Offences of which the One is included in the Other.

In cases in which offences are so far included the one within the other, and at the same time so legally related to each other, that an acquittal or conviction of the one will bar a trial for the other, may be divided into three classes, as follows:—

1. Cases where the offence which is the subject of the pending trial is included within the offence which was the subject of the former trial, and is one so related to it in law that under an indictment for the major offence there may legally be a conviction of the minor.³

¹ On the subject of double amenability and jurisdiction for military and civil offences involved in the same acts, see Chapter XIII—"Jurisdiction as affected by Amenability to Civil Proceedings," and authorities there cited.

² *Coleman v. Tennessee*, 97 U. S. 513-5; *People v. Gardner*, 6 Park. 100; G. O. 29, Dept. of the N. West, 1864; Do. 32, Dept. of La., 1866; *People v. Com.*, 341, note; DIGEST, 27.

³ "A former conviction is a bar to a trial for any offence of which the defendant might have been convicted under the indictment and proof in the first case." *State v. Nunnally*, 43 Ark. 68.

ter is as much an acquittal of the charge of murder as a verdict pronouncing his entire innocence would be." Upon the same principle, if an accused, charged with robbery, were convicted of larceny only, he could plead such conviction in bar of a second trial for the robbery. So, a conviction of absence-without-leave under a charge of desertion; or of "conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline" under a charge of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman" or under a charge of any specific military offence, is a bar to a subsequent trial for the offence originally charged.

3. Cases, the reverse of those of the 1st class, where, after a trial for a minor offence which is included in a certain major offence, the accused is brought to trial for the latter.

Here, by the weight of modern authority, the former trial is held pleadable in bar, provided the minor offence is one of which there could be a legal conviction under an indictment or charge for the major.¹ The principle of course is that, as the accused, upon the second trial for the major offence, is legally liable to be convicted of the minor included offence, he is by this trial again put in jeopardy for an offence for which he has already been once tried.² Upon this principle an acquittal, upon an indictment for manslaughter, is held pleadable in bar to a second trial for the same homicide charged as murder;³ a conviction upon an indictment for larceny is similarly held to bar a trial upon a charge of robbery founded upon the same transaction;⁴ and a conviction of an assault is held to be a bar to a trial for the battery committed at the same time.⁵

Courts-martial being governed in general by the rules of evidence applicable to criminal cases,⁶ a trial upon a charge of absence-without-leave would properly be held pleadable in bar to a subsequent trial for a desertion charged to have been actually

1. 1 Bishop, C. L. § 1057. And see *Com. v. Squire*, 1 Met. 264-5.

2. 1 Bishop, C. L. § 1057.

3. 2 Gabbett, 33; 1 Bishop, C. L. § 1058; *Wrote's Case*, 4 Coke, 45; *Melcroft's Case*, Id. 46; *Com. v. Curtis*, Thach. 206; *Com. v. Roby*, Pick. 504.

4. *State v. Lewis*, 2 Hawks, 98.

5. *State v. Chaffin*, 2 Swan, 93, where the court say:—"The one is necessary part of the other; and if he be now punished for the battery, will thereby be twice punished for the assault" included in it.

6. DIGEST, 253. And see Chapter XVIII.

committed in and by the same unauthorized absenting of ~~the~~ self by the accused; and a trial for a disorder or neglect under Art. 62, in bar of a subsequent trial for a specific offence with the same disorder or neglect was claimed to have amounted

The Form of the Plea, and the Evidence to sustain it
—Form of the Plea. "This plea," to employ the description of Chitty,¹ "is of a mixed nature, and consists partly of matter of record and partly of matter of fact. The matter of record is recital of the former indictment and acquittal or conviction; matter of fact is the averment of the identity of the offence of the person."

In the military practice, therefore, the plea, (which should preferably be in writing,) will properly consist of a statement to the effect that, by a court-martial convened by a certain description of order, the accused was, on or about ———, (giving the prior date or time of the trial,) duly tried upon a charge of ———, (reciting the charge and specification or specifications in full or in substance,) and was duly acquitted or convicted of such charge, &c., and that the offence for which he was so tried and acquitted, or convicted, is the same with the offence set forth in the charge which the plea is made. Or if the offences are not identical, the averment should be substituted to the effect that the offences are so related that the conviction or acquittal of the former operates as a bar to a trial for that which is the subject of the pending prosecution. While the plea in a military case need not be so technical as in the criminal procedure, a mere general plea that the accused had been previously tried for the same offence, without any of the particulars above indicated, would, strictly, be insufficient, and the court would be justified in declining to entertain it without amendment.³ A plea, indeed, thus or otherwise imperfect in form, (or a plea showing on its face that the former court was an unauthorized body or without jurisdiction, or that the charge was an insufficient basis for a finding, or that the

1. 1 C. L., 459.

2. A copy of the Order of publication of the proceedings, (if any issued in the original case,) exhibiting the charges, findings, &c., will be incorporated with or appended to the plea. As to the use of the same as evidence, see *post*.

3. Compare *Atkins v. State*, 16 Ark. 573; *Wortham v. Com.*, Rand. 677.

g was not a legal one, &c.,) would be liable to be *struck out* of the judge advocate. The court, however, would afford the accused reasonable time to amend and *com-* his plea.

Explanation of variance. If there appear on the face of plea any material variance between the two charges, as to me of person, description of property, place, date, &c., such variance should properly be explained by a special averment of fact sufficient to reconcile the two in law; otherwise the plea may run the risk of being disallowed.¹ So, where, since the former trial, the rank, or office, regiment, corps, &c., of the party has been changed, an averment will properly be added stating the fact and explaining the cause of the change and exhibiting the identity of the accused.

Evidence to sustain the Plea. The burden of the proof of the plea is of course upon the accused.² It will be for him to establish—(1) the existence of a record of a legal acquittal or conviction; (2) the fact of the identity of the person and offence. The character and extent of the proof required in a particular case will depend upon the issue made: the prosecution may reverse, orally or by written “replication,” either the entire plea or one or more of its averments.³

Proof of the record. The record in a military case is commonly proved by a copy of the original as recorded in the Judge Advocate General's Department, (or—if a record of an inferior court—at the Headquarters of the military Department,) authenticated by the legal custodian in the form usually practiced for the purpose. If the accused, prior to the arraignment, has not had a reasonable time within which to procure the copy, he shall be entitled to a continuance under Art. 93.⁴ The judge advocate, however, may admit the existence of the record and its

1. Compare *State v. Risher*, 1 Rich. 219.

2. *Com. v. Daley*, 4 Gray, 209; *Wharton*, C. P. & P. § 481, 483. It is held that the accused must prove his plea; that the court cannot accept it as true on his mere statement without evidence—see *G. O.* 33, Dept. of Arizona, 1877.

3. *Wharton*, C. P. & P. § 483; *Duncan v. Com.*, 6 Dana, 295.

4. 2 *Gabbett*, 334; 1 *Chitty*, C. L. 459; *State v. De Witt*, 2 Hill, 2; *Com. v. Myers*, 1 Va. Cas. 232.

contents as stated in the plea, contesting only the legality of the finding or the identity of the accused. It will then not in general be necessary to procure a copy of the record: a copy of the General Order promulgating the proceedings of the trial, and setting forth the convening of the court and the charges and specifications in full, and the findings, may in such case be quite sufficient for the use of the parties and to inform the court. If it is the legality of the trial which is tested, the issue must be determined upon the record itself (the Order as presenting its main features;) no extrinsic evidence being admissible to vary or contradict it.¹ If upon the face of the record, (or from the Order as its substitute,) it appears that the court was not legally constituted, or was without jurisdiction, or that the proceedings were fatally irregular, or that the charge or finding was insufficient in law,—the defect cannot be remedied by other testimony, and the plea, upon the principles heretofore considered, must be overruled.

Proof of identity. To establish, however, the averment of identity, either as to person or as to offence, evidence outside the record is admissible.² Whether indeed the offences are the same will in general be apparent from a comparison of the circumstances, names, places and dates, set forth in the specifications of the two charges. But where there is a material and substantial variance between them, some evidence, such as the testimony of the officer or officers who preferred or investigated the several charges, the judge advocate who conducted the original prosecution, or other individuals familiar with the facts, will be necessary to assimilate the offences.³ As to the identity of the person, evidence on this point will be especially called for when a considerable period has elapsed since the former trial, and the soldier then appeared under an alias or has since changed his name, and the second trial is ordered at a station remote from that of the first: in such cases some testimony such as that of

¹ Douglas v. Wickes, 10 Conn. 480; Martha v. State, 26 Ala. 71.

² Wharton v. P. & P. 848; People v. McGowan, 17 Wend. 485; People v. Revett, 1 Johns. 80; Dunn v. State, 70 Ind. 47.

³ Commonwealth v. Wilson, 24 Conn. 63; Durbin v. People, 1 Serg. & J. 389; McGowan v. People, 17 Wend. 389. Where the two offences are so set forth as distinct offences, there can be no question of variance, and no evidence to assimilate the offences will be admissible. Martha v. State, 26 Ala. 71.

ber or the judge advocate of the former court, or of a witness at the trial, or other person then present or otherwise recognizing the accused as the same individual, will be required to sustain the plea.

Waiver of the Right to Plead Former Trial. It is now abundantly established by the adjudications in criminal cases that the constitutional right to be exempt from being twice put in jeopardy, or twice tried, for the same offence, being for the sole benefit of the accused party, may be, expressly or impliedly, waived by him.¹ The same principle has been recognized at military law. It was held by Attorney General Wirt, in 1818, that the provision of the Articles of war, that "no person shall be tried a second time for the same offence," did not apply to a case in which the accused, upon a conviction and sentence being disapproved by the reviewing authority, himself applied for a new trial; the right to take advantage of the provision of Art. 102 being thus deemed to be waived.² An accused would, it is believed, also waive by implication this right, where he applied to the reviewing authority or President to have a conviction and sentence in his case disapproved or pronounced invalid on the ground of illegality, and this action was taken as requested.³ An accused, who had in fact been previously tried for the same offence, would also waive this right by intelligently pleading guilty or not guilty without interposing the special plea under consideration.⁴

Pleading over. The plea of former trial being overruled by the court, the accused will be required to plead over to the charge

¹ Bishop, C. L. § 992, 995, 998, 1001, &c.; Wharton, C. P. & P. 8; U. S. v. Harding, 1 Wallace Jr., 127; State v. Gurney, 37 Me, 156; Veatch v. State, 60 Ind. 291; Brennan v. People, 15 Ills.

1 Opins., 233. As to the few cases in which similar action has since been taken in the military practice, see DIGEST, 345. The new trial has usually been granted as a special indulgence to the accused in lieu of reviving and executing his conviction and sentence.

In connection with the view of Mr. Wirt that the benefit of the provision of Art. 102 may be waived by the accused, may well be noted his expressed two years later in 1 Opins., 383, that the benefit of the provision of Art. 103 may *not* be waived. (See *ante*, Chapter VIII, and note.) It would seem that if either Article was to be regarded absolute or prohibitory, it would be the former rather than the latter.

Compare 1 Bishop, C. L. § 998.

See *post*—"Pleading over."

upon the merits, either guilty or not guilty, precisely as if no plea in bar had been interposed.¹ The special plea and the plea of the general issue should be kept quite distinct in practice; the former being disposed of before proceeding to the other.² And the accused cannot properly be allowed to put the fact of the former acquittal or conviction in evidence under the general issue of not guilty, but should in all cases plead it specially.³

PLEA OF PARDON.

A pardon is an act of grace and mercy presupposing only the commission of an offence;⁴ and it is well settled that, under the plenary power conferred upon him in this respect by the Constitution, the President, while not often exercising the same before conviction,⁵ may legally pardon an offender in advance of trial. Hence the legality and fitness of a *plea of pardon* in a case where, after such action, the party is sought to be prosecuted.

Leaving the subject of the nature and extent of the pardoning power in military cases to be more appropriately considered in treating of the function of the Reviewing Authority under the 112th Article of war,⁷—we will here notice in brief:—I. The occasions and grounds for the plea of pardon in the military practice; II. The form and proof of the plea; III. The procedure upon the plea.

1. Wharton, C. P. & P. § 486. Com. v. Goddard, 13 Mass. 400; Benét, 108.

2. "They are distinct issues, and the jury must be separately charged with them." Until the issue under the special plea is disposed of, "there can be no trial in chief." Henry v. State, 33 Ala. 399. And see Foster v. State, 39 Ala. 229; Dominick v. State, 40 Ala. 686.

3. State v. Barnes, 32 Maine, 530; Com. v. Olds, 5 Litt. 140. The defence of former trial is thus distinguished from that based upon the statute of limitations; the latter may be taken advantage of upon the general issue. See *ante*.

4. 1 Opins. At. Gen., 342; VI Id., 21; *Ex parte Wells*, 18 How. 311.

5. "A variety of considerations seem to me to render it expedient generally, to interpose the pardoning power previous to trial." At. Gen. Berrien, II Opins., 275. And see V Id., 729; VI Id., 21.

6. 1 Opins. At. Gen., 342; VI Id., 20-1, 405; VIII Id., 283-4; IX Id., 227. "The power extends to every offence known to the law, and may be exercised at any time after its commission, either before proceedings are taken, or during their pendency, or after conviction and judgment." *Ex parte Garland*, 4 Wallace, 380.

7. See Chapter XXI.

I. OCCASIONS AND GROUNDS FOR THE PLEA.

is plea may be offered:—1, Where the accused has been ally formally pardoned; 2, Where he is included in a gen-act of pardon or amnesty; 3, Where he has been pardoned tructively.

Special Pardon. Special pardons of military offenders he President have not been frequent; prior to conviction, have been most rarely extended; and no instance is known e formal pleading of one upon an arraignment before a court-ial. Such a pardon, duly pleaded, would of course constitute nplete bar of trial.

General Amnesty to Deserters, &c. An informal plea rdon has in some cases been interposed in the military prac-where the accused has or claims to have been included in a al amnesty, offered by the President,¹ in the form of a amation or General Order, to deserters or absentees.² Par-as it has repeatedly been remarked, may be conditional—upon conditions precedent or subsequent;³ and these am-es have generally proceeded upon the condition precedent the party shall return and surrender himself by a certain hile some of them have contained the condition subsequent e shall duly perform duty for the remainder of his term, good the time lost by his desertion, &c. Where a pardon nted upon a condition precedent, the pardon does not take

that the pardoning power includes the power to extend amnesty, avies *v.* McKeefy, 5 Nev. 369; U. S. *v.* Klein, 13 Wallace, 128; rong *v.* U. S., Id. 154.

See Proclamations or Executive Orders of this character, (generally after a war,) published or referred to in the following Orders of ar Dept.: *viz.* G. O. of Nov. 5, 1811; Do. of June 17, 1814; Do. 8, 1815; Do. 35 of July 6, 1848; Do. 58 of March 10, 1863; Do. March 11, 1865; Do. 43 of July 3, 1866; Do. 102 of Oct. 10, [De Hart, (p. 144, note,) refers to a further proclamation of this ter, as "made by the President, after the termination of the Black War in 1832, when many soldiers deserted from dread of the l."] The proclamations and orders of March 10, 1863, and 11, 1865, were issued pursuant to directions of Acts of Congress. lamation of this class was directed to be issued by Gen. Washing-a Resolution of Congress of Oct. 17, 1777. (2 Journals, 294.)

Hawk., c. 37, s. 45; 4 Black. Com. 401; *Ex parte* Wells, 18 1, 307; Com. *v.* Haggarty, 4 Brewst. 326; VI Opins. At. Gen., I Id., 229; DIGEST, 359.

effect till the performance of the condition : where the is subsequent, the failure to perform it nullifies the gra

3. Constructive Pardon. Where a deserter has stored to duty without trial, under par. 218, Army Re 'by the authority competent to order his trial,' this regarded as a constructive condonation of the offence, be pleaded in bar of a trial subsequently ordered.² motion or appointment to a new office, of an officer of while under arrest and charges for the commission of military offence, will operate as a constructive pardon offence, and constitute a valid bar to a trial therefor.³ mere restoring to command or duty, or ordering on dt officer or soldier, when in arrest under charges, by his c ing officer, while regarded in the English law⁴ as pra pardon and pleadable as such in bar of trial, is not auth our law to be so treated, (except in the single case ab tioned as provided for in the Army Regulations,) and treated in practice.⁵ Nor can the mere fact that cha preferred have been dropped by a commander be pleac as a constructive pardon of the same, upon their bei quently revived and brought to trial in connection wit for offences since committed.⁶

II. FORM AND PROOF OF PLEA.

Form. The plea may be oral or in writing. When don is a special one, *i. e.* a formal pardon of the indiv

1. Flavell's Case, 8 W. & S. 197 ; VI Opins. 405. And see Klein, 13 Wallace, 142 ; DIGEST, 359. "If a condition sub broken, the offender could be tried and punished for the origi The breach of the condition would make the pardon void." At. Gen., 229.

2. DIGEST, 224-5. And see G. O. 4, Dept. of the West, 1 the plea was sustained in cases of soldiers, not deserters, 1 duty while under charges, in the same manner as desert Department Commander, in a General Order.

3. IV Opins. At. Gen., 8 ; VI Id., 123 ; VIII Id., 237 ; DI

4. Simmons § 565-7 ; Clode, 1 M. F. 173, (citing opini Duke of Wellington and Judge Advocate General Villiers, a Lord Lucan, Col. Quentin, Capt. Achison, &c.) And see gast, 244-5 ; Gorham, 28-9 ; Jones, 28 ; Twyford, 35 ; DIGE

5. DIGEST, 358 ; De Hart, 144 ; Benét, 119 ; Ives, 100.

6. See case in G. C. M. O. 13 of 1871.

a should properly be in a written form setting forth the date the pardon, by whom granted, and its substance, with an averment to the effect that the offence pardoned is the same with that which is the subject of the charge. If the grant is made upon a condition precedent, a compliance with the same should be alleged; if upon a condition subsequent, it should be averred that the same had been accepted. Where a pardon is claimed under a General Order or proclamation of the President, it will be sufficient to refer to the same orally or in writing, stating its date and substance or effect, with an averment that the accused belonged to the class described therein, and that he has complied with the conditions imposed thereby; as, for example, in return, as a deserter or absentee, by the time fixed, in since rendered due service as a soldier, &c. If a constructive pardon is claimed upon, the fact or facts claimed to constitute a pardon in law must be set forth—as that the accused was, by a certain order, giving its date and source, restored to duty as a deserter under 218 of the Army Regulations; or that, since his arrest and the clearing of the present charges, he has been, by the President, promoted to a higher rank or appointed to a higher office in the army, &c.

Proof. In connection with a plea of special pardon, the original pardon should be produced in court, since the court cannot take judicial notice of a personal grant of this character.¹ In a case of a deed, the acceptance of the pardon will be inferred from the fact of the making of the plea, without other proof. If the pardon be conditional, the accused should show that he has duly and fully performed the condition, or has performed it as far as practicable up to the date of the plea.² In claiming an amnesty offered to deserters, the accused,—if the fact does not appear from the averments of the specification or is not admitted by the prosecution,—must show that his case is embraced within the terms of the offer,³ (not being included in any

See *U. S. v. Wilson*, 7 Peters, 161. It may be noted here that a promise of pardon is not evidence of pardon: the promise is executory and may be withdrawn. XI Opins. At. Gen., 230. A variance in a pardon as to the name or description of the beneficiary may be explained by evidence. 2 Hawk., c. 37, s. 66; 2 Gabbett, 340. VI Opins. At. Gen., 405; Simmons, § 564; Griffiths, 99; Marshall, 40; O'Brien, 249; De Hart, 144.

It must appear that he was a deserter at the date of the proclama-

excepted class, if exceptions are made,¹) and further,—if this also does not appear from the specification or is not conceded by the prosecution,—that he surrendered himself or returned voluntarily within the time limited, and has since duly performed service, &c.² A copy of the Order or proclamation as published will properly be added and entered of record with the plea; but the existence and contents of such Order, &c., the court will take judicial notice without proof. A constructive pardon will be proved by the order, issued by competent authority, restoring the party to duty as a deserter under the Army Regulations, with evidence, if necessary, of the identity of the accused with the person described in such order; or by the executive appointment or other fact or facts relied upon as constituting a legal pardon. If the accused requires time, (as he well may where his station has been changed, or he has been transferred to a distant command, &c., since the date of the alleged condonation,) in order to make proof of a special pardon, to produce or prove an order restoring him to duty, to establish his identity, &c., a reasonable continuance will in general properly be granted him for the purpose.³

The prosecution may take issue on the plea;—may reply that the pardon has been obtained by fraud;⁴ that the accused is not identical with the person claimed to be pardoned; that he has not complied with the conditions prescribed, &c.

III. PROCEDURE UPON THE PLEA.

Upon the plea being interposed, (and the pardon, order, &c. being produced, if any,) the proper proceeding is for the judge-advocate, if he has no exceptions to take, to enter, (with the authority of the convening officer,) a *nolle prosequi* upon the charge or charges covered by the pardon. If he contests

fact or Order, in deserting later he could not of course be held to be included in the amnesty. G. O. S. Dept. of the East, 1866.

1. Partridge's Case, Cro. Eliz. 125.

2. Sumners § 304. Griffiths, 301. Macomb, 41: De Hart, 144. In one instance in G. O. S. Dept. of the East, 1865, a deserter, having been arrested in Germany by the civil authorities, claimed, in order to avoid a civil prosecution, to return to the army under a proclamation of the President. It was properly held that such a return could not be regarded as voluntary. And see case referred to in DIGEST, 359, § 1.

3. 1 How. 231, 232. On the subject of Continuances, see C. 17, XI.

4. 2 Hawk. c. 37, s. 40. 4 Black. Com. 400: XI Opins. At. Gen.,

, it will remain for the court, upon the evidence furnished argument made, to deliberate and pass formally upon the plea. If the plea is overruled, the accused—as in the case of the ruling of a special plea of former trial—is, regularly, called by the court to plead to the merits, and the trial goes on. If the plea be sustained, the court does not proceed to *acquit* the accused, since the pardon was based upon the theory of his guilt, his acceptance of it was substantially an admission of guilt *in law*.¹ The court therefore merely adjudges that the plea is sustained, and terminates its proceeding in the case; the record going to the reviewing authority, who, if he approves the plea taken, will order the discharge of the prisoner. A pardon existing at the time of the arraignment should be sought to be taken advantage of by this plea, since the benefit it will be waived by a plea of guilty or not guilty.² A pardon, however, may reach an accused after the trial has been pronounced on the merits; in which case the judge advocate, (no motion appearing for raising an issue,) will, (with the sanction of the reviewing authority,) properly enter a *nolle prosequi*.³ And, as it has been remarked by Atty. Gen. Cushing,⁴ the President, without resorting to a grant in the ordinary form, may legally exert the pardoning power “by order of *nolle prosequi* ending a prosecution.”

INADMISSIBLE SPECIAL PLEAS.

Beside the regular special pleas above considered, a few others, not properly admissible as separate pleas, have in some instances been offered in military cases—as follows :

Former Punishment. The plea of former punishment, *i. e.* that the accused has already been adequately punished for his offence by his commanding officer, though recognized in the British practice,⁵ is not known to our military law,⁶ and when

¹ 51 Opins. At. Gen., 228.

² Hawk., c. 37, s. 59, 67; 4 Black. Com. 402; 2 Gabbett, 340-1; 2 Wilson, 7 Peters, 162; Hough, 905.

³ As to this proceeding, see Chapter XV.

⁴ 7 III Opins., 283, 284.

⁵ Simmons § 561-563; Army Act, 46, (7.)

⁶ See De Hart, 145; Benét, 103. A plea of this nature, however, is to be recognized in the practice of our navy. See case of Lieut.

made on our military trials has been properly overruled.¹ When indeed an accused has, prior to trial, been subjected, on account of his offence, to any physical punishment, or to reduction to the ranks, or to a protracted arrest, or other unusual or unauthorized discipline, he may properly show the fact in evidence on the general issue, in mitigation of such sentence as the court, in the event of his conviction, may impose.² But, except in this form, he cannot avail himself of such circumstances, upon a trial.

Illegal Enlistment. The accused, upon arraignment, has sometimes pleaded that on account of some illegality in his enlistment, as that he was under age,³ or that he was enlisted for three years when the law required that all enlistments should be for five,⁴ &c., he was not amenable to trial. But no such form of special plea is recognized in our law. If the accused, by reason of an invalid enlistment, is not duly or legally in the army, he should, regularly, offer the facts in evidence under a *plea to the jurisdiction*, or bring them out under the general issue.

Release from Arrest, &c. Release from arrest upon the charges, and restoration to duty, before trial,—already noticed as not ground for a plea of pardon, (except in cases of desertion under par. 218, Army Regulations,)—is, similarly, no ground for a special plea in bar of trial.⁵

Other Subjects. Such objections, (which have been taken in some cases,) as that the accused at the time of the arraignment is undergoing a sentence of general court-martial;⁶ or that owing to the long delay in bringing him to trial he is "unable to disprove the charge or defend himself;"⁷ or that he has no

Stanley in Captain Jones' Trial, p. 310; also case in G. O. 137, Navy Dept., 1869.

1. G. O. 27, Army of the Potomac, 1861; Do. 73, Third Mil. Dist. 1868; Do. 12, Dept. of Cal., 1871; G. C. M. O. 71, Dept. of Dakota, 1882.

2. DIGEST, 360. And see the three last G. O. cited in the preceding note.

3. G. O. 52, Dept. of the East, 1869.

4. G. O. 82, Dept. of Dakota, 1869.

5. G. O. 7, Dept. of the Mo., 1868; Do. 32, Fifth Mil. Dist., 1868.

6. G. O. 30, Dept. of the Pacific, 1864.

7. G. C. M. O. 85, Dept. of the Mo., 1869. And see G. O. 33, Dept. of Arizona, 1871.

furnished with a copy, or a correct copy, of the charges; if his accuser is actuated by malice or is a person of bad character,—are, it need hardly be said, not proper subjects for special pleas; however much they may constitute ground for condonation, or affect the question of the measure of punishment. As to all such objections as are properly matters of *defence* on the general issue,—for example, that the accused committed the offence charged when insane or intoxicated, or in obedience to a military order, or under a mistake of fact or law, —these are not within the scope or purpose of special pleas, nor can they properly be raised in any interlocutory form otherwise than upon the trial and by the testimony, being, as they are, of the very substance of the defence.

IV. PLEA OF GUILTY OR NOT GUILTY.

The accused, upon arraignment, having no special plea or motion to offer, (or having presented a special plea or motion which has been overruled,) proceeds in regular course to plead—orally—Guilty or Not Guilty, as the case may be, to the several charges specified in their order.

Form of the Plea—Qualifications and Exceptions. The usual form of this plea has already been indicated. As this plea is laid down by the authorities that it must be “express, and unqualified,” no statement in exculpation or justification is admissible in connection with it.³

Although no such matter of evidence, or other matter of defence, can form part of this plea, it may yet, at military law, be qualified in so far that the accused may *except* from the truth of his answer of guilty or not guilty to a specification of words or allegations indicated by him. Thus he may plead guilty to a specification except as to some averment or statement of fact, or as to a word or words expressive of the offence charged, and to this or these, not guilty; or he may plead not guilty to a specification except as to some portion which is admitted, and to this portion guilty.

³ De Hart, 147.

⁴ O. 33, Dept. of Arizona, 1871.

⁵ Black. Com. 333; Adye, 158; Tytler, 239; Kennedy, 92; Simmons, 552; Maltby, 53; De Hart, 134, 135; G. O. 107, Dept. of the Interior, 1873.

Another form of qualification of this plea, is the plea not guilty of the charge as laid, but guilty of a *lesser offence* included and involved in it. Thus a soldier accused of desertion but claiming that he is chargeable only with an unauthorized absence, may legally plead not guilty of the offence charged but guilty of absence-without-leave. And in so pleading he is not further, *except* from his plea of guilty such words in the specification as characterize the offence of desertion, substituting, if necessary, words describing the offence actually admitted.¹ This is a form of qualifying and excepting, though not essential since the court may find the lesser offence if the evidence warrants it, though it is unfrequent in practice.

Inadmissible forms. An accused may plead guilty to a specification but not guilty of the charge, since such plea raises a legal issue, *viz.* whether the facts alleged in the specification do constitute the offence charged.² But the converse plea of guilty of the specification but guilty of the charge, is wholly illegitimate. It neither confesses anything nor contests anything, but consists of two incompatible answers which raise the issue, and cannot be admitted as pleas by the court.³ The plea to a charge or specification of "*guilty but without authority*," though sometimes admitted in practice, is irregular, contradictory and not to be sanctioned.⁴ It is practically equivalent to "not guilty" and should properly be made in this

1. In such a case the plea would ordinarily be—To the Specification Guilty, except as to the words "did desert," substituting the words "*absent himself without authority from*;" to the Charge, Not Guilty, Guilty of Absence-without-leave. Or the plea to the Specification be Guilty, except in so far as it alleges desertion; or Guilty, or Not Guilty, in so far as it alleges absence-without-leave.

2. This plea may sometimes be made by a soldier through ignorance when he really does not mean to admit the substance of the specification. In such a case it was remarked by the reviewing authority, in G. C. M. O. 70 of 1875: "The court should have advised him to frame his plea intelligently."

3. G. O. 70. Dept. of the East. 1864.

4. In a case in G. C. M. O. 52. Dept. of the Columbia, 1881, a plea of this kind offered by the accused was refused to be received by the court, which required him to plead anew. On his then standing the court directed the plea of not guilty to be entered to both the charge and specification.

Effect of the Plea as a Waiver. The effect of the plea of guilty or not guilty is to *waive* any defects of form in the charges and specifications, which might be taken advantage of by plea in abatement, or its substitute a motion to strike out. By this plea, the accused admits his own identity with the person described in the charges as the offender, and foregoes objections to the same on the ground that they are inartificial, indefinite or redundant, &c., as well as to the allegations of particular matters of description, or of time and place, being obscure or incomplete.¹ A substantial defect, however, going to the sufficiency of the charge as a statement of a military offence, is not waived.² Nor of course can any such radical defect as an illegality in the constitution of the court, or an absence of jurisdiction of the offence or the person, be done away with or lessened by this plea.³

The Plea of Not Guilty—its legal effect. This plea, which is by far the most frequent in all criminal proceedings, whether civil or military, is also known as the *general issue* because it denies and puts at issue and to trial all the material allegations in the indictment or charge. Where a contest on the merits is proposed, this plea is an essential element of the proceedings which cannot be dispensed with. It must be made by the accused and entered of record as a starting point: in its absence the court cannot supply an issue.⁴

In law "not guilty" is not a denial by the accused of the doing of the specific acts or things set forth in the charge. He may have done none of them, while, on the other hand, he may have done all of them, and the plea be as proper in the latter case as in the former. For what he denies is not the details but the com-

Wharton, C. P. & P. § 413; III Opins. At. Gen., 549; O'Brien, -1; G. O. 48., Dept. of the South, 1864; Do. 10, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1867; Do. 2, Dept. of the Platte, 1871; DIGEST, 211, 379.

Fletcher v. State, 7 Eng. 170; DIGEST, 379.

DIGEST, 211, 379-380. In Gen. Hull's case, (Printed Trial, p. 118,) the court, referring to the charge of "treason" preferred against the accused, expresses the opinion that a court-martial "cannot acquire jurisdiction of the offence by the waiver or consent of the accused." That a court of jurisdiction cannot confer jurisdiction where none exists in law, are People v. Campbell, 4 Park. 386; Do. v. Rathbun, 21 Wend. 599. Shoemaker v. Nesbit, 2 Rawle, 201; Moore v. Houston, 3 S. & R. 599. Duffield v. Smith, Id. 599.

Wharton, C. P. & P. § 409; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 801; Douglass v. The Board of Commissioners, 3 Wis. 821.

mission of the offence which these details describe, in other words the particular offence which, it is alleged, the details constitute.¹ Thus the accused may well admit the *act* charged but not admit the *animus* ascribed to it; or he may admit the *act* and defend it on the ground that it was enjoined by superior authority, or compelled by an exigency of war or of the service, &c. The plea is thus a legal issue, not a moral disclaimer; it commits the party resorting to it to no falsehood or deception.² Even where every material averment in the charge is admitted to be true, and no defence to the same exists on the merits, this plea is always justifiable, since it is in general only through this legal form that all the circumstances surrounding the offence, and which, taken together, may very considerably extenuate its criminality, can be brought out in evidence, and the proper measure of punishment be duly determined.

The Plea of Guilty—its legal effect. The effect in law of this plea is that of a confession of the offence or admission of the *act as charged*. But it is to be noted that such plea does not necessarily confess that a particular legal offence has been committed, for it admits only what is charged. If the alleged offence indeed is duly set forth in the charge, such offence is confessed by this plea, and a formal conviction of the same must follow.³ If not duly set forth,—if the facts stated in the specification fall short of constituting the particular offence,—there is no such confession by the plea of guilty and the accused cannot legally be convicted.⁴

Reception of this Plea—Withdrawal. This plea is one which military courts, in common with civil, should not too readily receive,⁵ and which, (as has already been remarked,) a judge advocate should not attempt to induce to be made. Where there

1. See Kennedy, 93.

2. Kennedy, 93; Com. v. Battis, 1 Mass. 94.

3. 1 Bishop, C. P. § 795. This is "the highest kind of conviction which the case admits." 1 Chitty, C. L., 428-9.

4. Wharton, C. P. & P. § 413; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 795; Fletcher v. State, 7 Eng. 170. Where the charge is defective in that the offence is laid under the wrong Article of war, "the plea of guilty cannot entitle the power of the court." G. C. M. O. 32, Dept. of the Mo., 1871.

5. 4 Black. Com. 329; 2 Gabbett, 319; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 795; Tytler, 237; Kennedy, 86; De Hart, 136.

reason to suppose that such plea is not both voluntary and intelligent, or that the accused does not appreciate its legal effect, or is misled as to its influence upon the judgment of the court, he should be advised by the court not to interpose it but to plead instead 'not guilty.' So, where, after it has been duly made and received, the accused asks to be allowed to withdraw it and substitute the general issue, he should ordinarily be permitted to do so: 'indeed the court will properly advise or suggest such substitution if the same appears to be in the interests of justice.

This Plea in connection with an Inconsistent "Statement." For the action last indicated there is especial reason where the accused, upon his plea of guilty, proceeds, as has often been done by enlisted men ignorant of the legal effect of the course pursued, to make to the court a "statement" setting forth facts quite inconsistent with such plea. Thus, a soldier, after having pleaded guilty to a charge of desertion, will sometimes, in a final address to the court, state facts going to show that his unauthorized absence was unaccompanied by the *animus* peculiar to desertion; or, where the charge is larceny, that his unauthorized taking of the property was not characterized by an *animus furandi*. In such cases, while the representation made is often a mere pretence, the fair inference may not unfrequently be that it is the statement which is accurate and intelligent rather than the plea, and that the accused has really a good defence to the charge, or guilty only of a minor offence included in it. In other cases, the statement, while not strictly inconsistent with the plea, will set forth matters of extenuation which, if established in evidence, will very materially palliate the offence admitted by the plea. In all such cases the court, if it has reason to believe that the statement is made in good faith, will in general properly advise the accused to withdraw his plea of guilty, substituting a plea of not guilty, and, upon this being done, will call upon the judge advocate to introduce such evidence as may be readily available in investigating the facts stated by the accused, with a view to ascertaining the exact offence committed and the amount of crim-

1 Bishop, C. P. § 798; Wharton, C. P. & P. § 414; 2 Gabbett, 319; Tyler, 237; Hough, (P.) 780; State v. Cotton, 4 Post. 143; People v. McCrory, 41 Cal. 458; DIGEST, 378-9. So, the court may in its discretion permit the plea of not guilty to be withdrawn and that of guilty, or a special plea, to be substituted. 1 Chitty, C. L., 423; Bishop, C. P. § 801.

inality to be attached to it. Such was the opinion and of Judge Advocate General Holt in repeated cases of s- brought to trial during and since the late war,¹ and his vie adopted in Orders by the Secretary of War.² It was ~~also~~ and followed in numerous cases by commanders of milita departments, &c., by whom the proceedings of courts-marti which such action was neglected to be taken, were frequ disapproved.³

Introduction of Evidence with the Plea of Guilt general. But, *in general also*, and where the plea is intellig made, the same, though a confession of the offence as charg held by the weight of authority not to prelude the introducti evidence to exhibit the full facts of the case. While it w doubt the practice formerly, as it is now in the majority of in which this plea is interposed, not to take any evidence, ever, the fact that *some* evidence was necessary to a compn

1. DIGEST, 377-8.

2. In the cases of two soldiers published in G. C. M. O. 2, of 18 which the written statements submitted by the accused were contri of their pleas of guilty, it was remarked by the Secretary of as follows: "The Court should have regarded these statements as tralizing the effect of their pleas, and should have had the ac instructed as to their legal rights, and advised to change their pleas a view to the hearing of testimony. It not unfrequently happens soldiers do not understand the legal difference between absence-wit leave and desertion, or are wholly unable to discriminate as to the g of their offences, as determined by their motives. They thus, somet ignorantly plead guilty and are sentenced for crimes of which they be actually innocent. The proceedings, findings, and sentences are approved." And see G. C. M. O. 31, 1876; also Do. 63, 1874; 91 of 1881. A similar view has now been adopted into the English See Rules of Procedure, 36 (A.)

3. See G. O. 34, Northern Dept., 1865; Do. 33, Dept. of the C 1866; Do. 46, Dept. of the South, 1868; Do. 7, Id., 1869; Do. 22, 1871; Do. 22, 71, Id., 1873; Do. 28, Dept. of the Platte, 1869; Do Id., 1870; Do. 2, 24, 68, Id., 1871; Do. 88, Dept. of Texas, 1870; 19, 33, 38, Id., 1873; Do. 11, 16, 18, Id., 1874; Do. 45, Id., 1875; (M. O. 98, Dept. of the East, 1872; Do. 14, 43, 68, Id., 1873; Do. 81 98, Dept. of Dakota, 1873; Do. 8, Id., 1876; Do. 31, Dept. of Cal., 1 Do. 55, Id., 1874; Do. 5, 74, Dept. of the Mo., 1875; Do. 61, Id., 1 Do. 77, 80, Id., 1881; Do. 29, Div. of the Atlantic, 1874; Do. 23 1875; Do. 144, Div. of Pacific & Dept. of Cal., 1880; Do. 1, Dep Dakota, 1885; also Do. 69, Hdqrs. of Army, 1877, (remarks of Hancock.) The instances referred to in these Orders, while m cases of desertion, include also cases of larceny and of drunkenne duty.

a considerable proportion of such cases seems to have appreciated at an early period. Thus in a General Order Army Headquarters—No. 60—of 1829,¹ it was enjoined, by General Commanding, upon courts-martial in capital cases, specially cases of desertion, not to receive the plea of guilty, offering for the prisoner the plea of not guilty, to “determine the grade of the offence and *quantum* of guilt by the character of the evidence produced to them.” Next, in a General Order No. 23 of 1830, it was declared by the same authority “In every case in which a prisoner pleads guilty, it is the duty of the court-martial, notwithstanding, to receive and to reject such proceedings such evidence as may afford a full knowledge of the circumstances; it being essential that the facts and circumstances should be known to those whose duty it is to report on the case, or who have discretion in carrying the sentence into effect.”

Later, in No. 21 of the Orders of 1833, the General Commanding, in remarking that the old rule, that no evidence was to be received with the plea of guilty, had been abrogated by the new Orders, disapproves the action of a certain court-martial in regarding the same and refusing to allow the judge advocate to read the evidence, notwithstanding such plea, the facts and circumstances of the case, which—it is declared—are essential both to the regular officer and to the President as the pardoning power. In G. O. 36 of 1835, another court-martial is pointedly rebuked for a similar disregard of Orders and of the opinion of the Attorney General. This was an opinion of Atty. Gen. Butler in the case of Cadet Crittenden, addressed to the Secretary of War on April 11, 1834,² ‘in answer to questions proposed upon a memorial prepared by Gen. Macomb.’ It is here held that—the duty of a court-martial in all cases where the punishment for the offence charged is discretionary, * * * and the facts and circumstances do not show all the circumstances attending the offence—to receive such testimony as the judge advocate may offer for the purpose of illustrating the actual degree of the offence, notwithstanding the plea of guilty may have pleaded.

this ruling was preceded by that of the court in the case of Capt. B. of the Navy, in 1822, where it was held that the plea of guilty by the accused should “not prevent the introduction of any testimony which the court may deem it necessary to hear on the part of the prose-

cututed in 11 Opins. At. Gen., 636; also in G. O. 32 of 1834.

guilty. * * * If there be any exception to this remark it is where the specification is so full and precise as to disclose all the circumstances of mitigation or aggravation which accompany the offence. Where that is the case, or where the punishment is fixed, and no discretion is allowed, explanatory testimony cannot be needed." This opinion was incorporated in par. 3 of Art. 35 of the issue of the Army Regulations of December, 1836. In the Regulations of 1841, the opinion, condensed to a few lines, and limited to "cases of enlisted soldiers," is published as par. 228; and the same paragraph, (numbered 320,) is repeated in the issue of 1847. It does not appear in the Regulations of 1857 nor thereafter. Revived during the late war, attention was frequently called to this principle by the Judge Advocate General who held that a court-martial was authorized, notwithstanding the plea of guilty, and even where the sentence was not discretionary,¹ to receive evidence on the merits, with a view to determining the actual criminality of the offender and the measure of punishment which should properly be executed, in any case in which such evidence was deemed to be essential to the due administration of military justice. And this even against the objection of the accused, who 'could not properly be allowed, by pleading guilty, to shut out testimony where the interests of the public service required its introduction.' Of course, where evidence was thus admitted, the accused was to be afforded the opportunity of offering rebutting evidence, the testimony on both sides being governed by the usual rules in regard to relevancy &c.² These views have been adopted and acted upon in repeated cases published in Department, &c., Orders,³ and—especially

1. See G. C. M. O. 37, Dept. of the Mo., 1880, where it is observed by Gen. Pope:—"While the punishment may be fixed, yet testimony is necessary and proper for the consideration of the Reviewing Officer who may, under the powers conferred upon him by law, pardon or mitigate the punishment."

2. DIGEST, 203, 375-6.

3. See G. O. 54, Army of the Potomac, 1861; Do. 91, Id., 1863; Do. 57, Dept. of Washington, 1863; Do. 20, Northern Dept., 1865; Do. 3, Dept. of the N. West, 1864; Do. 52, 58, 91, Dept. of Arkansas, 1864; Do. 24, Dept. of Va., 1865; Do. 81, 114, Dept. of the Mo., 1867; Do. 39, Dept. of the Platte, 1870; Do. 45, Third Mil. Dist., 1868; Do. 2, Fifth Id., 1867. And see Simmons § 553, 1005; Tytler, 238; Macon 38-9; De Hart, 135. The contrary view, that, where the accused pleads guilty, no evidence can be introduced against his objection expressed by O'Brien, 250, 251. And see Benét, 95.

ting to cases of desertion to which they are peculiarly applicable—have been announced in a recent G. O. of the War Department.¹

With the plea of Not Guilty or Guilty begins the Trial proper, which we now proceed to consider.

G. C. M. O. 69 of 1877.

The *trial* begins "when the jury is charged with the prisoner. Previous to this everything that is done is merely preliminary." *McFadden v. Com.*, 23 Pa. St. 12.

CHAPTER XVII.

THE TRIAL.

Supposing all preliminary objections, motions, and special pleas, if any, to have been disposed of, and the accused to have pleaded 'not guilty' to at least a portion of the charges and specifications,—all is now prepared for the Trial on the merits, and this subject will be considered in the present Chapter under the following heads:—I. The hours of session of the court; II. The Opening of the prosecution or defence; III. The general course of proceeding; IV. The Defence; V. The concluding Statement; VI. Contempts. The important subject of Evidence will be presented in a separate Chapter.

I. THE HOURS OF SESSION OF THE COURT.

The Law on the Subject. This subject is regulated by Art. 94 of the code, as follows:—"Proceedings of trials shall be carried on only between the hours of eight in the morning and three in the afternoon, excepting in cases which, in the opinion of the officer appointing the court, require immediate example."

Purpose of the Article. The object of this statute, which dates in our law from the Articles of 1775, and is but a modified form of a similar provision in the first Mutiny Act, is, as explained by military writers,¹ to prevent the daily attendance upon the trial from being too protracted and onerous, to obviate haste on the part of the court, and to afford an opportunity to the judge advocate to write up the daily record. In an opinion of an Attorney General,² it is represented as a purpose of the Article, "to guard against improper secrecy," *i. e.* by precluding

1. Hough, 377; Coppée, 50.

2. XI Opins., 141.

cts-martial from sitting during hours when their proceedings could not readily be subject to public scrutiny.

ts Legal Effect. The provision of the Article, being confined to "proceedings of trials," is not to be extended to action by the court which is not properly a part of the trial. As it has been held that the fact that a court entertained a *motion to adjourn* after three o'clock p. m. did not constitute a violation on its part of the injunction of the statute.¹ As a rule of procedure on the *trial*, however, the Article is mandatory.² While a court is not *required* to sit during the entire period between the hours specified, and may, on any day of its sessions, sit no later than eight o'clock a. m., or close earlier than three o'clock p. m., yet, in the absence of the specific authority indicated in the last clause, it cannot properly sit outside of the designated limits, and, if it does so, its proceedings, while not, in the opinion of the author, legally invalidated, are necessarily irregular, and the members of the court are amenable to justice for a disregard of the statutory direction:³ their proceedings and sentences also are liable to be formally disapproved by the reviewing officer, if the objection is deemed sufficiently material.⁴ Strictly indeed it is only those portions of the testimony or proceedings of trials which are had without the hours named that are affected, and if such testimony or proceedings afterwards be repeated and gone through with *de novo*, within the proper hours, the defect in the action of the court may be remedied.⁵ It is also only where the record shows affirmatively that the legal hours were disregarded by the court that the pro-

. DIGEST, 78.

. Hough, 377; DIGEST, 77. Hough, (p. 378,) observes: "All officers are supposed to regulate their watches by the time of headquarters, and by such should a court, I apprehend, be regulated in their proceedings." The uncompleted proceeding, whatever its nature, would be at once interrupted at the fixed hour. Thus Hough, (p. 192,) cites a case where—"three o'clock striking, the court adjourned in the midst of its deliberations," (on the *sentence*.)

. Hough, (p. 386,) cites a case of a convening and reviewing officer convicted upon charges of permitting a court-martial to carry on its proceedings after 3 p. m., and of approving and executing a sentence then pronounced; and sentenced to be reprimanded.

. See cases of such disapproval in G. O. 2, Dept. of the South, 1873; 94, Dept. of the Gulf, 1864; S. O., 281, Dept. of Washington, 1861. Compare case cited by Hough, 378; Id., (P.) 31, 787; Hughes, 168.

ceedings are, so far forth, to be treated as irregular and liable to disapproval.¹ It is not *required* in the Article or elsewhere that the record shall specifically set forth the hours of assembling or adjournment, and, where none are stated, it will properly be presumed, in favor of the official record, (in the absence of clear proof to the contrary,) that the injunction of the Article has been duly observed by the court.²

Excepted Cases. The Article, in its last clause, in excepting from its general operation, "*cases which, in the opinion of the officer appointing the court, require immediate example*" confers upon such officer a discretion similar to that vested in him by Arts. 75 and 79, for fixing the number and rank of the members.³ The exception may be said to refer mainly to cases where, by reason of some such condition as the pressure of business upon the court or of other duties upon the members, the need of prompt discipline in the command, the gravity or peculiar circumstances of the offence or offences to be tried, or the exigencies of war or of the service, it is deemed desirable that the proceedings should be especially expedited. The term "*immediate example*" has been variously construed by conventional officers—by some quite strictly and by others much more freely. As all cases of military offences, referred after due investigation to courts-martial for trial, may be said in a general sense to require immediate example, *i. e.* to call for as speedy justice as can reasonably be administered, a broad interpretation of the term employed and liberal use of the discretion reposed by the Article are believed by the author to be in general justified. No case is known to have occurred in our service where the abuse, to the prejudice of the accused or of justice, of such discretion, has been made the occasion of a military charge.

Form of Authorizing Disregard of stated Hours. As to the ~~form~~ for the exercise of the discretion, and for authorizing the court to commence or continue its daily proceedings independently of the general restriction of the Article—this, in our service is almost invariably given in one particular mode, *viz.*

1. *Pherson*, 28

2. As to the presumption in favor of the regularity of judicial proceedings see *1 Greenl. Ev.* § 12.

3. See *McHart*, 42.

ection added in the convening order, or in a subsequent order pending the trial,' (for the authority may be given at any time at which an occasion for it may be deemed to have arisen,) "the court will sit without regard to hours," or "is authorized to sit without regard to hours," or in words to such effect.

Provision liable to Objection. Whether this Article has proved rather embarrassing than advantageous in practice is a question which has been considerably discussed. In the report of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, of February 18, 1865, heretofore cited, it is observed as follows:—"The committee also thinks that it will be expedient to amend Article 94 of the Articles of war, so as to provide that the court-martial shall have power to regulate the time and duration of its daily sittings."

THE OPENING OF THE PROSECUTION OR DEFENCE.

This proceeding, by which the introduction of the testimony is prefaced, is not common in our practice, and openings are even more rarely made by the accused than by the prosecution. An opening is indeed much less called for before a court-martial, where the proceedings are in general simple and summary, than before a civil jury. In complicated cases, however, as where there are numerous charges or specifications, it may be of considerable advantage, both to the parties and the court, for the defence advocate, prior to entering upon the evidence for the prosecution, to present, orally, or by reading from a writing, a brief statement of the testimony proposed to be offered to establish the several charges and of the principles of law deemed applicable to the case. In so doing, he may read from law books, published judicial opinions, &c. He will properly be careful not to misrepresent the evidence—stating only what facts can be proved—and especially not to attempt to create in advance an unfair impression against the accused. Argument also is out of place here and should be postponed till the final address. Subject to these restrictions, a clear and compact statement of the facts and the conclusion on the part of the prosecution, by rendering the issues in-

See the order issued toward the conclusion of Gen. F. J. Porter's (in time of war, 1862-3,) for the purpose of expediting the proceedings. Printed Trial, p. 209.

of their testimony. By military courts a direction it is rarely given, but in a case of importance, which is of public interest and become matter of common talk, a direction would not be out of place.

It, it may be added, has been extended, in the civil cases where, at the trial, a discussion has arisen upon any or proposed testimony of a witness under examination, on motion of either party, a court-martial, like a civil court, will, ordinarily and properly, cause the witness to suspend the argument.

It so be noted that a witness who, having been examined, is allowed to be re-examined at a subsequent stage, or to be re-examined by the other side, will properly be directed to suspend the hearing of the other witnesses till again called to properly applying to all witnesses who have not yet been discharged as such.

It is, though notified to retire, has remained in court during the examination of a previous witness, while he may—if he is a person—be amenable to a charge under Art. 62, he is disqualified from testifying; his credibility only, not his coming affected.

The general rule of exclusion certain classes of witnesses have been recognized as exceptions. These are those summoned as witnesses who must often necessarily hear the evidence which previously given as a basis for forming their opinions; those called to testify to *character* only; and further any person intended to be called as a witness who may be present in the capacity of a *party to the suit, judge advocate, or counsel*. The *prosecuting attorney* is generally permitted to remain in court, but not till he has himself fully testified.¹

Examination and Hearing of the Testimony. The judge now proceeds to introduce and examine his witnesses, to conduct cross-examination on the part of the accused, and also to receive depositions and written evidence as he may have to

subject of this title see 1 Greenl. Ev. § 432; 1 Bishop, C. 93; U. S. v. Cole, 5 McLean, 529; State v. Zellers, 2 Halst. v. Hersey, 2 Allen, 176; McLean v. State, 16 Ala. 672; State, 27 Ga. 288; Southey v. Nash, 7 C. & P. 632; Regina v. 8 Id. 297; Gen. Whitelocke's Trial, vol. I, p. 2; Adml. 1, p. 7; Simmons § 569, 942, 943; Tytler, 249; O'Brien, 1, 148.

exhibit, and having completed his showing announces that the prosecution rests. The accused then produces similarly the proof on his side and similarly rests in conclusion. Evidence in rebuttal may follow on the part of the prosecution, and this, in the discretion of the court, may be succeeded on the part of the accused by evidence in reply to the same.

The hearing cannot legally be interrupted except by a *non prosequi* or dissolution ordered by the proper superior.

Qualifying of witnesses. The witnesses, standing with uplifted hand, qualify by taking in open court¹ the form of oath (or affirmation) prescribed in Art. 92. A witness, though he is recalled, or after testifying for one side be required to testify again and in chief for the other, is never sworn but once, *viz.* when he first takes the stand. The Article fails to indicate by whom the oath shall be administered,² but, according to the established usage of our service, the witnesses are sworn by the judge advocate; this officer when himself appearing as a witness being sworn by the president.³ In view of the mandatory injunction of the Article, the form of the oath may not be departed from; but the witness may accompany the form by such additional ceremony as is habitual with persons of his religious sect. Thus Roman Catholics are usually sworn on a copy of the Evangelists, with cross impressed upon or affixed to it, which is kissed by the witness. Jews are sworn by the five books of Moses, and in being qualified wear their hats. Chinese are now in general sworn, not by the breaking of a saucer,⁴ but by the usual form of oath administered through an interpreter who explains it to the witness; and Indian witnesses have been sworn in a similar manner.

1. See G. O. 1, Div. of the Pacific, 1866, where the swearing and examining of one of the witnesses out of court, and in the absence of the accused, is commented upon as an illegal proceeding.

2. The similar form of oath prescribed by the first Mutiny Act was specifically authorized and directed to be administered by the "Judge Advocate or his Deputy." The Articles of 1776 provided that the oath be administered by the president; those of 1786 that it be administered "by the court." The present form of the statute dates from the Articles of 1806 which was silent as to this particular.

3. A deaf and dumb witness, (having sufficient intelligence to comprehend the obligation,) is sworn through an interpreter. 1 Greenl. § 366.

4. This was the form observed in the reported case of Regina v. Entrehman, 1 C. & M. 248.

and sequence of testimony. Subject to the discretion of the several stages of the Examination—the Direct, Re-direct examinations—which are properly to be kept apart, the court will in general leave it to the parties, the advocate and accused—to introduce their witnesses, and their testimony, in such sequence as may be found by the court to be advantageous or convenient. Further, in its discretion, for the interests of truth and justice, the court may permit evidence to be introduced by a party quite out of its proper order and place. Thus it may not only admit evidence at a later period of an examination which should regularly have been introduced at an earlier, allowing a witness to be re-examined or cross examination upon a question or question previously omitted;¹ but it may permit a case once begun by the part of the prosecution or defence, or on both sides, to be reopened for the introduction of testimony previously undiscovered since the closing.² Even where the party neglects to offer evidence with *laches* in not offering the testimony at the time, the court may still permit its subsequent introduction of material evidence of a character that its exclusion will leave the trial on incomplete. But where new testimony is thus admitted, it must be admitted subject to the right of the other party to cross-examine and rebut.³

Bishop, C. P. § 966, and cases cited; *People v. Keith*, 50 Mich. 580; *De Hart*, 159; G. C. M. O. 47, Dept. of Justice. The court may induce the recalling of a witness for its testimony. *De Hart*, 174.

People v. Keith, C. P. § 966; *R. R. Co. v. Steinburg*, 17 Mich. 99; *Eberle*, 47 Ga. 598; *Lang v. Waters*, 47 Ala. 625. In the leading case, *G. Harris*, (see *Printed Trial*,) the defence was permitted to introduce new evidence after both sides had formally closed and the trial adjourned for two days to give the accused time to prepare his defence. In several military cases evidence has been admitted after the reading of the final statement of the accused. See G. O. Fla., 1865; Do. 11, Dept. of La., 1869; Do. 149, Dept. of La., 1870; G. C. M. O. 143, Div. Pacific & Dept. of Cal., 1880. In *Snyder's Trial*, (p. 141,) evidence was held admissible, in the absence of the court, after both addresses had been made. Evidence, though material, is merely *cumulative*, should not thus

be introduced in G. O. 73 of 1829; Do. 31, Dept. of Fla., 1865; Do. 149, Dept. of La., 1870; Do. 149, Dept. of the Mo., 1870—where the court in refusing this right to the accused is disapproved.

Examination by the court. While it is no part of the province of the court to conduct either the prosecution or the defence, it is open to any member to put questions to the witnesses for either side. But this, though it may be done at any stage of a protracted examination where some matter, which may be forgotten if not noticed at the moment, has not been made quite clear by the witness, is in general postponed until both the parties have concluded their examinations, and is then resorted to for the purpose only or mainly of the elucidation of some part of the testimony which has been left obscure.¹ A member may also suggest a question to be put by the judge advocate or accused where he has omitted to elicit some material particular. Further, while the court cannot legally "originate" evidence,² i. e. take the initiative in providing any part of the proofs, yet where, with a view to a more thorough investigation of the case, it desires to hear certain evidence not introduced by either party, it may properly call upon the judge advocate to procure the same if practicable, adjourning for a reasonable period to allow time for the purpose. New testimony thus elicited may of course be received subject to cross examination and rebuttal by the party to whom it is adverse.³

The testimony to be in open court. All testimony, whether oral or written, and whether upon the main or an interlocutory issue, is to be introduced in open court, and no testimony can be received by the court during a period of deliberation after it has been cleared.⁴ So, where a member of the court has knowledge of material facts in the case, he cannot properly communicate the same privately to the court when cleared.

1. Simmons § 577; O'Brien, 253; De Hart, 157; Lieut. Hyder's Trial, 143; Gen. Dyer's Court of Inquiry, Part I, 269; G. O. 21, Dept. of La., 1866.

2. De Hart, 85; G. O. 11, 17, Dept. of La., 1869.

3. See G. C. M. O. 48, Div. Pacific & Dept. of Cal., 1880.

It may be noted here that the "confronting" of witnesses, or causing by the court of two witnesses who contradict each other to be brought into court together and subjected to further interrogatories with a view to reconcile their statements, has been referred to as allowed by some authorities. (See Simmons § 944; De Hart, 152; Coppée, 17.) It is however a measure of very doubtful expediency, now most rarely if ever resorted to. It was refused to be permitted by the court proposed by the accused on Lieut. Col. Fremont's Trial—pp. 321-

4. See III Opins. At. Gen., 546; also G. O. 1, Div. of the Pacific, 1

eration, or to the other members, but should cause him to be sworn as a witness on the part of the prosecution or vice.

By the rule that the testimony shall be taken in open court, an exception has been recognized in a case where a material witness, ignorant at the station at which the court is assembled, is unable through sickness or other disability, to attend, and the exigencies or interests of the service do not justify waiting for his recovery. In such a case the court may temporarily adjourn to quarters or hospital where the witness may be, and receive testimony taken in the usual manner.¹

the completing of the testimony not to be interfered

After the testimony has been entered upon, it cannot, if a trial, properly be allowed to be interrupted, except of course through action of the superior authority which created the court, in the form of an order dissolving it or suspending the proceeding or through the authorized entry of a *nolle prosequi*.² The court itself cannot refuse to hear witnesses proposed to be offered for a party, provided they are competent and their testimony material³ and not unreasonably cumulative;⁴ nor can a party, by an act or objection, shut off the exhibition by the other of evidence pertinent to the proof of his case. Even an accused, by escaping from legal custody, after pleading not guilty, henceforth absenting himself from the court, does not put an end to the trial, but the same proceeds and the prosecution is not letted without regard to his absence.⁵

In such a case the testimony must be taken by the court, *i. e.* as a court; it cannot depute a member or members for the purpose. *Adye*, 104 U. S. 596, 306.

See *U. S. v. Corrie*, 23 Law Rep., 145. As to the proceeding of *prosequi*, or withdrawal of a charge, see Chapter XVI.

See the leading case of *Emerson Etheridge* in G. O. 34, Div. of the South, 1865; also G. O. 21 of 1872; Do. 31, Sixteenth Army Corps, 1863; Do. 30, Dept. of the South, 1871; also G. O. 59, Dept. of Dakota, 1871, where the court is censured for not waiting a reasonable time for material *material* evidence which had been sent for, but proceeding to judgment with unreasonable haste and thus prejudicing the interests of justice. As to the authority of the court to limit the extent of testimony as to *character*, see next Chapter.

DIGEST, 205. See Chapter XIX.

The Reading of the Proceedings. A customary part of the routine of a trial is the reading, at the opening of each day's session, of the proceedings and testimony of the previous day, as recorded. At this reading the accused is entitled to be present, but he may waive the right:¹ with his concurrence also a reading may be dispensed with.

Objections—Clearing the Court. Objections, based upon grounds to be indicated in the next Chapter,² may be taken by either party to questions or answers in the course of the examination of the witnesses, as also to the admission of written evidence. Objections may also be raised by members of the court, but, as remarked in a General Order,³ inasmuch as the members occupy the position of judges and not of counsel, and "it is a part of their business to try the case as counsel, the frequent interposition of objections by members is a vicious practice and should be discountenanced."

It has been sometimes asserted that a *party* could not properly object to a question put by a member; but if such a question is one not sanctioned by the law of evidence, no sufficient reason is perceived why an exception taken thereto in a respectful manner should not be entertained and allowed as in a case of a similar question by an adverse party, and this is the view sustained by the weight of authority.⁴

All objections should be *specific*;⁵ an objection expressed in general terms only, (as where the party simply says—"I object" without adding his ground,) should not be entertained by the court.

To determine whether an objection is or not valid, the court

1. DIGEST, 219; G. O. 35 of 1867.

2. The ground of the objection should be one recognized at law—that the question is irrelevant or leading, or that the answer is evasive, responsive, or is an expression of opinion, &c. An objection by a judge-advocate to a question, that it was "unnecessary," was condemned in G. O. 42, Dept. of the Platte, 1871.

3. G. C. M. O. 142, Dept. of Dakota, 1881, also cited in Chapter 2.

4. A party may object to a question put by a member before the collective opinion of the court has been expressed upon it. Simmons v. United States, 100 U. S. 575; De Hart, 156.

5. Grounds for objection on the part of the prosecution or a member should be specified in court in the presence of the accused, not left to be stated after the court is cleared. G. C. M. O. 9, Dept. of the East, 1871.

rs, but objections of an unimportant character may be made without this formality. The "clearing" of the court is the same in form whether the purpose be to deliberate upon a special plea or motion, upon an objection, or upon the finding and sentence. A clearing is resorted to at the instance of the president or at the instance of a member, when the ruling of the court is desired upon a question suggested in the course of the proceedings, or upon a point raised by a party to the trial. In all cases the clearing is effected by the president of the court directing all persons present (judge advocate) to withdraw from the court-room and to remain closed till the doors are again opened. The procedure, in view of the inconvenience and embarrassment caused to the counsel, clerks and reporters, witnesses and the public, is not a serious objection. In the French *conseils de guerre*, when desiring to deliberate, themselves retire to a room, leaving the officials, counsel and audience in their seats until the return of the court, and incommoding no one. In the English practice, as it is remarked by Capt. Hall,¹ "instead of clearing the room, sometimes retires to an adjoining apartment to deliberate." In this country, in the case of *Bowles et al.*, by Military Commission in 1864, the president, as it is recorded,² "retired to an adjoining room to consult, to avoid the inconvenience of dismissing the court assembled to listen to the proceedings." In the absence of any provision of law on the subject, it would be perfectly proper and in general desirable upon extended and important cases in our courts-martial to adopt, where practicable and convenient, the French form of clearing in lieu of that commonly

used. The court has been cleared for deliberation upon an objection, and the approved course, after the point has been sufficiently discussed, is for the president to put to the vote of the court the question—"Shall the objection be sustained?" If the majority vote in the affirmative, or the vote is a tie,³ the objection is not sustained, and, on the court being re-opened,

suggestions for improving the military law," &c. London, 1864,

Trial, p. 73-4.

the effect of a *tie vote*, see Chapter XII.

and this result announced, the question, or answer, object is put or given, and recorded. Otherwise, if the object sustained by a majority vote.

IV. THE DEFENCE.

In General. It is a principle to be scrupulously observed in a military trial that the accused, whatever his rank,¹ is not to be deprived of no right but is to be accorded every privilege—is in no manner to be embarrassed or placed at disadvantage, but in every reasonable degree facilitated, in making his defence. As heretofore indicated,² he is not to be shackled or otherwise restrained as to his person, unless it may be necessary to prevent escape or violence. If he be under the influence of liquor,³ or ill, the proceedings should be suspended till he is sober, well, and master of his faculties. That he may be a convict, under a previous sentence, should not be allowed to prejudice his defence.⁴ On the trial he should be deprived of no material testimony, reasonably obtainable either by subpoena, oral deposition, whether required to present his original defence, rebut or reply to the testimony of the prosecution,⁵ to impeach its witnesses,⁷ to exhibit matters of extenuation,⁸ or to establish his own character or record. Subject only to the objection which all proofs or proceedings are liable, he should be permitted to conduct the examination and cross-examination of witnesses, and generally to present his defence, in his own way without restriction by the court.⁹ Subject to a reasonable limitation as to evidence of character and evidence purely cumulative, the court should hear his entire material testimony,¹⁰ and

1. DIGEST, 219.

2. In Chapter XII.

3. See Title 1, State, 23 Ark. 34.

4. That it can constitute no objection to his being tried, see *G. (C. M. O.) Dept. of the Pacific*, 1864.

5. *G. C. M. O.* 43 of 1885; *G. O.* 40. Fourth Mil. Dist., 1869. The court, in a case especially of a soldier, should see that his right is protected by the exclusion of improper testimony. *G. C. M. O. Dept. of Dakota*, 1882.

6. *G. O.* 11. Dept. of La., 1862.

7. *G. C. M. O.* 21 of 1872.

8. *G. O.* 48. Third Mil. Dist., 1868.

9. Kennedy, 102; Napier, 21.

10. *G. O.* 34. Div. of the Tenn., 1865.

where necessary in bringing it fully out. The principle illustrated, that the accused shall be allowed and enabled to make a free and full defence, while of general application, is especially to be regarded in a case where the accused is an uneducated man without counsel.

Specific Defences—Classification. The prosecution having established, by *prima facie* evidence, the offence, (or at least one of the offences,) charged, the accused is put upon his *defence*. Defences are of two sorts, consisting either—1, of proof that the offence charged was not committed by the accused; or—2, of proof that though the act alleged was committed by him, it did not constitute the offence charged.

A defence of the former class will consist in exhibiting some facts inconsistent with guilt,—as that the occurrences set forth in the specification did not take place as alleged, or at all; that the accused did not personally do, or take part in, the act charged; or that he was not present at the alleged place and time of commission, but was elsewhere, (*alibi*,) and therefore could not have committed it; or that the offence was actually committed by another person, &c. Defences of this class vary with the provisions of the Articles under which the charges are laid and the circumstances in each case, and, except to notice briefly the defence of *alibi*, need not here be considered.¹

Alibi. This defence, when satisfactorily established, is necessary as a conclusive answer to the charge. It is however easily rebutted, and, even when sustained by the testimony of *bona fide* witnesses, is subject to question by reason of possible and actual errors as to dates, hours of the day, identity of persons, &c. It is therefore to be entertained with strictness and caution.² A perfect *alibi* must cover the whole time when the presence of the prisoner was required for the consummation of the offence.³ Where, however, it fails to include the entire period, it is still to be taken into consideration, and if sufficient to justify a reasonable doubt as to the presence of the accused at the time and place

As to this class of defences see Chapter XXV, on the Articles of War, separately considered.

Wharton, Cr. Ev. § 742; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 1064; Chappel v. State, 11. 92.

Bishop, C. P. § 1067.

of the act, will properly induce an acquittal by the court.¹ The defence is best tested by a searching cross-examination as to details; it may also be rebutted by any facts tending to disprove it and not already in evidence, as, for example, admissions or statements of the accused at variance with the claim of *alibi*.²

2. The defences of the *second* class are such as consist in proof of an absence of criminal *capacity* or *intent*, by reason mainly of Ignorance of fact or of law, Drunkenness, Insanity, Obedience to orders, Compulsion of the enemy and Requirements of military discipline.

Ignorance of Fact. It is generally laid down that ignorance of fact excuses crime.³ But this must be an honest or innocent ignorance, and not an ignorance which is the result of carelessness or fault.⁴ The theory of course is that where a *bona fide* ignorance of fact exists there must be an absence of the requisite wrongful *intent*. The general rule applies equally to military cases; and the ignorance, to constitute a defence therein, must appear not to have proceeded from any want of vigilance, or from failure to make the inquiries or obtain the information reasonably called for by the obligations and usages of the service. Thus an officer who presents a fraudulent claim against the

1. *State v. Waterman*, 1 Nev. 544.

2. 1 Bishop, C. P. § 1068.

3. 3 Greenl. Ev. § 21; 1 Bishop, C. L. § 301.

4. 1 Bishop, C. L. § 302, 313. Simmons, (§ 593,) in treating of the defence, says:—"Ignorance or mistake is a defect of will; when a man intending to do a lawful act, does that which is unlawful. As if a soldier intending to fire on the enemy, kills some of his own people; or firing by order of his officer at a target, kills a bystander." But this must be qualified as indicated in the text: the ignorance or mistake in such cases, to constitute a sufficient defence, must be such as could not have been guarded against by a reasonable prudence: if in an appreciable degree the result of heedlessness, the defence fails.

Akin to this defence is that sometimes distinguished as the defence of Accident—in regard to which it is observed by Blackstone, (4 Com. 27,) as follows: "If any accidental mischief happens to follow from the performance of a *lawful* act, the party stands excused from all guilt. But if a man be doing anything *unlawful*, and a consequence ensue which he did not foresee or intend, as the death of a man or the like, his want of foresight shall be no excuse; for, being guilty of one offence in doing antecedently what is in itself unlawful, he is criminally guilty of whatever consequence may follow the first misbehaviour." The force of these statements however must be taken with the qualification above specified.

ted States without knowing it to be fraudulent, or a soldier neglects to report for guard or other duty because ignorant of the fact that he has been duly detailed therefor, is not guilty of a breach, in the one case of the 60th, or in the other of the Article of war, unless his ignorance is the result of his own negligence or wrong-doing.

Ignorance of Law. On the other hand, it is also a general principle, founded originally "on the necessities of civil government,"¹ that an ignorance or mistake of *law* does not excuse crime, and it is a legal presumption that "every man is presumed to know the laws of the country in which he dwells."² In general therefore such ignorance or mistake can have no effect in going away with the inference, or rebutting the proof, of criminal intent, and the fact of its existence is inadmissible in evidence as a defence.

This principle is equally applicable to military persons so far regards their knowledge of and amenability to the general law of the land. Such persons also are generally to be presumed to have a knowledge of the special laws and regulations governing the army, as well as of the General Orders which have been officially promulgated and of which they are bound from their position or circumstances to take notice.³ In the case of *officers* certainly this rule can scarcely admit of an exception; but the question may sometimes arise how far *enlisted men* are to be regarded with a knowledge of the Articles of war.

Ignorance of the code on the part of soldiers. This question would be based primarily upon the fact that the Article makes it one of the features of enlistments into the military service that the "Articles of war shall be read to every enlisted man at the time of, or within six days after, his enlistment," and then proceeds to enjoin that he shall thereupon take oath in which, among other things, he swears that he will serve and obey military orders "according to the rules and

And on a consideration of "the dangerous extent to which the issue of ignorance might otherwise be carried." 3 Greenl. Ev. § 20,

3 Greenl. Ev. § 20; 1 Bishop, C. L. § 294.

See De Hart, 164; Benét, 119.

articles of war."¹ While in the case of an old or re-enlisted soldier, or one who had been for a considerable period in the service and had had a sufficient opportunity to inform himself as to the provisions of the code, a failure to have complied with the injunction of this article could scarcely constitute a defence, such failure might perhaps have this effect, or at least operate as an extenuation, in the case of a recruit, especially one imperfectly acquainted with the English language. In such a case it would certainly be admissible for the accused to show the fact,² and the offence charged were one of the criminality of which he could not, in his ignorance of military law, have been aware, or the gravity of which he could not have appreciated, the omission of the reading of the Articles upon his enlistment would properly be regarded by the court, if not as a defence, certainly as a palliation of his misconduct. In several cases published in General Orders, such an omission has induced the court to impose a light sentence or the reviewing authority to mitigate the punishment adjudged.³

Drunkenness. The common law, though it does not inquire for mere drunkenness, views it as a wrongful act.⁴ As observed by Bishop,⁵ "the law deems it wrong for a man to cloud his mind or excite it to evil action, by the use of intoxicating drinks." Crime therefore, when committed by an individual who has previously placed himself under the influence of an intoxicant, committed by one who is in the wrong *ab initio*; hence the

1. In this connection, note also Art. 128, (commented upon in Chapter XXV,) which requires that the "articles shall be read and published once in every six months to every garrison, regiment, troop, or company in the service of the United States."

2. G. C. M. O. 20, Dept. of the East, 1870.

3. G. O. 23, Army of West Va., 1861; Do. 20, Dept. of the Mo., 1862; Do. 49, Dept. of the Susquehanna, 1864; G. C. M. O. 73, Dept. of the East, 1872; Do. 25, Dept. of Texas, 1874. And see Harcourt, 88.

4. "It is a great offence in itself." *Beverly's Case*, 4 Coke, 123. And see G. O. 157, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1864. Blackstone refers to it as a "crime." Thus he says, (4 Com. 26,) "The law of England considering how easy it is to counterfeit this excuse, and how weak an excuse it is, (though real,) will not suffer any man thus to privilege a crime by another." Story J., in *U. S. v. Cornell*, 2 Mason, 11, more accurately expresses the principle as follows: "The vices of men do not constitute an excuse for their crimes."

5. 1 C. L. § 397

shed general principle that voluntary drunkenness furnishes no excuse or palliation for criminal acts committed during continuance, and no immunity from the penal consequences of such acts.¹

As to the question whether or not the accused was drunk at the time of the commission of the criminal act may be material as to indicate what *species* or *quality* of offence was actually committed. Thus there are crimes, or instances of crimes, which can be consummated only where a peculiar and distinctive intent, a conscious deliberation or premeditation, has concurred with the act, which could not well be possessed or entertained by an intoxicated person. In such cases evidence of the drunken condition of the party at the time of his commission of the charged crime is held admissible, not to excuse or extenuate the act as such, but to aid in determining whether, in view of the state of his mind, such act amounted to the specific crime charged, or whether it was one of two or more crimes, similar but distinguished in degree, it really was in law. Thus in cases of such offences as larceny, robbery, burglary, and passing counterfeit money, which require for their commission a certain specific intent, evidence of drunkenness is admissible as indicating whether the offender was capable of entertaining this intent, or whether his act was any-

"A man who voluntarily puts himself in a condition to have no control of his actions must be held to intend the consequences. The policy of the community requires this rule. Intoxication is so easily counted upon, and, when real, is so often resorted to as a means of nerving a person up to the commission of some desperate act, and is withal so usable in itself, that the law has never recognized it as an excuse for crime." *People v. Garbutt*, 17 Mich. 19. And see *Beverly's Case*, 123, b.; *U. S. v. Cornell*, 2 Mason, 111; *U. S. v. Drew*, 5 Id. Com. v. *Hawkins*, 3 Gray, 466; *Kenny v. People*, 31 N. Y. 330; *Shop, C. L.* § 400, and cases cited; *Harcourt*, 54; *G. O.* 40, 53, *People of the Potomac*, 1862; *Do.* 70, *Dept. of the East*, 1865.

In the majority of cases, indeed, drunkenness rather aggravates than excuses crime, *viz.* by adding at least a gross and offensive feature to a specific wrongful act. See *G. O.* 8, *Dept. of the Gulf*, 1872; *G. C.* 1, 21, *Dept. of the East*, 1871.

Where the intoxication is not voluntary—not induced by the party's act, the principle of responsibility does not apply. Thus, "if a man be made drunk by stratagem, or the fraud of another, he is not punishable." *Parsons' Case*, 2 Lewin, 144. And see *U. S. v. Rouden-Baldwin*, 518. So, where drunkenness is caused by the want of proper care of a physician. 1 *Bishop, C. L.* § 405; 3 *Greenl. Ev.* § 6; *People v. Robinson*, 2 Park. 236.

thing more than a mere battery, trespass, or mistake.¹ So, upon an indictment for murder, testimony as to the inebriation of the accused at the time of the killing may ordinarily properly be admitted as indicating a mental excitement, confusion, or unconsciousness, incompatible under the circumstances of the case with premeditation or a deliberate intent to take life, and as reducing the crime to the grade of manslaughter, or—where such an offence is created by the State statute—of murder in the second (or other) degree.² On the other hand, where, to constitute the legal crime, there is required no peculiar intent—no wrongful intent other than that inferable from the act itself—as in cases of assault and battery, rape, or arson, evidence that the offender was intoxicated would, strictly, not be admissible in defence.³

In *military* cases, the fact of the drunkenness of the accused, as indicating his state of mind at the time of the alleged offence, whether it may be considered as properly affecting the issue to be tried or only the measure of punishment to be adjudged in the event of conviction, is in practice always admitted in evidence. And where a deliberate purpose or peculiar intent is necessary to constitute the offence, as in cases of disobedience of orders, violation of Art. 21, desertion, mutiny, cowardice, or fraud

1. *U. S. v. Roudenbush*, Baldwin, 514; *Rex v. Pitman*, 2 C. & L. 423; *Com. v. French*, Thach. 163; *Pigman v. State*, 14 Ohio, 55; *Nichols v. State*, 8 Ohio St. 435; *State v. Schingen*, 20 Wis. 74; *State v. Bell*, 29 Iowa, 316; *Mooney v. State*, 33 Ala. 420; *People v. Harris*, 29 Cal. 701; 1 Bishop, C. L. § 408-414.

2. *Hoyt v. People*, 104 U. S. 931; *State v. Johnson*, 40 Conn. 13, and 41 Id. 588; *People v. Rogers*, 18 N. Y. 9; *People v. Hammill*, Park. 223; *People v. Robinson*, Id. 235; *Friery v. People*, 54 Bar. 319; *State v. McCants*, 1 Speers, 384; *Kelley v. State*, 3 Sm. & M. 518; *Shannahan v. Com.*, 8 Bush, 463; *Swan v. State*, 4 Humph. 13; *People v. Belencia*, 21 Cal. 544; *People v. Williams*, 43 Id. 344; *Greenl. Ev.* § 6, 148; 1 Bishop, C. L. § 401, 409.

To constitute, however, a defence, the mere fact that the party was under the influence of liquor is not sufficient. A person in some degree under such influence may nevertheless be capable of conceiving a specific design and of acting with premeditation. If so capable, he must be presumed, like a sober man, to have intended the natural and legitimate consequences of his act. *Friery v. People*; *People v. Belencia*, *ante*.

Where a person is too drunk to entertain the specific intent peculiar to a certain crime, his drunkenness will constitute equally a defence to the charge of an *attempt* to commit it. 1 Bishop, C. L. § 413.

3. See *People v. King*, 27 Cal. 514; *Ferrell v. State*, 43 Texas, 9.

4. DIGEST, 247.

tion of Art. 60, the drunkenness, if clearly shown in evidence to have been such as to have incapacitated the party from retaining such purpose or intent, will ordinarily properly be held as constituting a legal defence to the specific act charged. In such cases, however, if the drunken act has involved a disorder or neglect of duty prejudicial to good order and military discipline—and such will commonly be the fact¹—the accused will be convicted of an offence under Art. 62, thus incurring an adequate punishment.

It is to be noted that drunkenness, to be admitted in evidence, to constitute a defence, need not be caused by indulgence in spirituous liquors, but may, with the same effect, result from the untimely excessive use of an intoxicating drug.²

The effect, as a defence, of drunkenness when so extreme as to become a condition of *insanity* will be noticed under the next head.

Insanity. Insanity is a disease so perverting the reason or moral sense or both as to render a person not accountable for his acts. It is an exceptional and abnormal status, (to be established generally by the testimony of medical experts,³) and as the law assumes a man to be sane till he is proved to be the contrary, the burden of maintaining insanity as a defence in a criminal case is of course upon the accused.⁴ To constitute a defence on ground of insanity it may be made to appear, on the one hand, either that the accused, in committing the offence, did not, from mental derangement, comprehend the nature of what he was doing, or did not know that he was doing wrong;⁵ or, on the

Some writers express themselves in general terms to the effect that drunkenness is in itself a breach of military discipline.⁶ See Simmons, 11; Hough, (P.) 86; Harcourt, 56; Napier, 181; Hickman, 130. It certainly can rarely fail to be so when committed in camp or at a military post.

DIGEST, 247. And see late case in G. C. M. O. 49 of 1883.

Real v. People, 55 Barb. 551; G. O. 91, Army of the Potomac,

If enough, however, is shown on the part of the accused, to induce on the whole evidence—a reasonable doubt of his sanity, he is entitled to an acquittal. *Hopps v. People*, 31 Ills. 385; *Chase v. People*, 135. Otherwise if a mere doubt or possibility only is raised. *People v. Com.*, 77 Pa. St. 205.

McNaghten's Case, 10 Clark & Fin. 210; *Com. v. Rogers*, 7 Met. Com. v. Mosler, 4 Barr, 264; *People v. Klein*, Edmonds, 13; *State v. Anger*, 43 Mo. 127.

other hand, that, though aware of the nature and consequences of his act, as well as of its wrongfulness or its illegality, he was prompted by such an uncontrollable impulse as not to be a fit agent.¹

Insanity may be general or partial. It may consist of an entire or almost entire dispossession of the reason, or of some delusion or hallucination only² or of a monomania.³ A partial insanity is no defence where it relates to persons or things not connected with the crime charged.⁴ Insanity may also be permanent, intermittent or temporary. If the party has lucid intervals when he is free from the disease, he will be responsible for criminal acts committed in such intervals.⁵ If at the date of the crime he has quite recovered from a previous derangement, he will be held accountable as if such derangement had never occurred. But the recovery must be clearly shown, otherwise the presumption of law will govern—that insanity once existing has continued to exist.⁶

Insanity of whatever sort must, to constitute a defence, be absolute. No mere caprice or eccentricity, however arbitrary or extravagant, can be accepted as an excuse for crime.⁷

Insanity may be a defence though resulting solely from intem-

1. See Com. v. Rogers, *ante*; U. S. v. Guiteau, 1 Mackey, 498.

2. "Where the delusion of the party is such that he has a real and firm belief of the existence of a fact which is wholly imaginary, and under that insane belief he does an act which would be justifiable if the fact existed, he is not responsible for such act." Com. v. Rogers, Met. 500. "He must be considered in the same situation as to responsibility as if the facts with respect to which the delusion exists were real." *McNaghten's Case*, 10 Clark & Fin. 211.

3. Such as *homicidal mania*—a morbid propensity to kill; *kleptomania*—a morbid propensity to steal; *pyromania*—a morbid incendiary propensity; *pseudomania*—a morbid propensity to falsify; and other manias now well recognized in medical jurisprudence. See Wharton & Stille § 185.

4. State v. Spencer, 1 Zab. 196; Com. v. Mosler, 4 Barr, 266; *People v. Ward*, 30 Miss. 600.

5. "It is all one whether the phrenzy be fixed and permanent or whether it were temporary by force of any disease, if the fact were committed while the party were under that distemper." 1 Hale, P. C. 3.

6. State v. Spencer, 1 Zab. 210. But it is only established permanent insanity which the law presumes to continue till the contrary is shown; not so with spasmodic or temporary mania. *People v. Fry*, 38 Cal. 183.

7. 1 Russell, 13; Com. v. Haskell, 3 Brewst. 491.

tion. But such an insanity, to relieve from criminal responsibility, must amount to a fixed mental derangement or delirium existing at the time of the act, and incapacitating the party either to appreciate its wrongfulness or to resist the impulse to commit it.¹ In military cases, insanity is not a common *defence*, though the aim is not unfrequently advanced by soldiers, in *extenuation* of an offence charged, that their brain has been affected by a previous wound or other injury. Where the defence is actually set up, it should be duly entertained and allowed to be supported by evidence, however improbable it may apparently be.² Where insanity or mental incapacity has been shown or indicated on the defence, the court has in some cases proceeded to sentence, accompanying such action with a recommendation that the sentence be remitted or that its execution be suspended till the question of insanity can be more fully investigated;³ in other cases it has found the accused guilty without criminality attached on the expressed ground of his mental condition;⁴ the preferable form is simply to *acquit* on this ground.⁵

If at the arraignment, or pending the trial, the accused, though not alleging it as a defence, manifests insanity or imbecility, the

1. 3 Greenl. Ev. § 6; 1 Bishop, C. L. § 400, 406; Lanergan v. People, Barb. 277; Com. v. Crozier, 1 Brewst. 349; Bailey v. State, 26 d. 422; Bradley v. State, 31 Ind. 492; Tyra v. Com., 2 Met. (Ky.) People v. Ferriss, 55 Cal. 588; State v. Till, 1 Houston, 233, 511.

It may be remarked that a party cannot be held accountable for acts committed while in a condition of excessive intoxication or unnatural excitement brought on by no fault of his own. Thus Hale, (1 P. C. c. 10.) observes: "If a person, by the unskilfulness of his physician, or by the contrivance of his enemies, eat or drink such a thing as causeth such a temporary or permanent phrenzy as *aconitum* or *nux vomica*, puts him into the same condition in reference to crimes as any other phrenzy and equally excuseth him."

2. In a peculiar case in G. O. 29, Div. of the Atlantic, 1874, in which the court refused to entertain this defence on the ground that the accused was personally known to a majority of the court who considered themselves competent to judge of his sanity without evidence, Gen. Hancock disapproved of the proceedings as a method of disposing of a defence "unknown to the administration of justice," as well as at variance with the oath of the members to 'determine according to evidence.'

3. G. O. 62, 73, First Mil. Dist., 1867; Do. 1, Div. of the Pacific, 1872.
4. G. O. 13, Northern Dept., 1864. And see cases in G. O. 46 of 24 and 36 of 1825, where the accused is convicted, but, on account of mental derangement or idiocy, is not sentenced but recommended to be discharged. See also Hickman, 215.

5. See Simmons § 590; Kennedy, 195; O'Brien, 266.

court should suspend proceedings and investigate his condition, reporting the result to the commander; or, preferably, submit a report to him the apparent fact, for such investigation or of action as he may see fit to institute.

Obedience to Orders. That the act charged as an offence was done in obedience to the order—verbal or written—to a military superior, is, in general, a good defence at military law.

The act, however, must have been *duly* done—must not have been either wanton or in excess of the authority or discretion conferred by the order. Thus an officer or soldier ordered to suppress a mutiny or disorder or to make an arrest, a guard ordered to keep in custody a prisoner, or a sentinel ordered to prevent persons from passing his post, will not be justified in taking life or in resorting to extreme violence, where the object of the order can be effectually accomplished by more moderate and customary means: otherwise where the forcible resistance of the party, his persistence in disregarding warnings, his sudden flight, &c., render it impracticable to seize or stop him without extreme violence or the use of a deadly weapon.⁴

Further the order, to constitute a defence, must be a *legal* order. It must emanate from a proper officer—a superior authorized to give it—and it must command a thing not in itself unlawful or prohibited by law. In other words, it must be an order which the inferior is bound to obey. While obedience by inferiors is the fundamental principle of the military service, it is yet required to be rendered only to a lawful order.⁶ It is "the law

1. G. O. 10, Dept. of the Gulf, 1866; G. C. M. O. 39, Dept. of Mo., 1868. And compare *People v. Ah Ying*, 42 Cal. 19.

2. See *Pollard v. Baldwin*, 22 Iowa, 328. So, no particular form of words is required if the order is so expressed as to be intelligible. 3. *Small and State v. Hill*, Smith's Reports of Decisions in Military Cases, pp. 57, 83.

3. Simmons § 594; *Bombay R.*, 16; *DeHart*, 165; *Benét*, 119.

4. See DIGEST, 314; and compare title "Requirements of military discipline," *post*, and authorities cited thereunder; also civil cases under PART III, *post*.

Where the exceeding of the order was only the result of an excessive zeal, the offence was held to be extenuated. G. O. 5, Dept. of the Gulf, 1866.

5. DIGEST, 9. See adjudged cases illustrating this principle under PART III, *post*.

6. See Chapter XXV—TWENTY-FIRST ARTICLE.

s of the superiors appointed over them" that "all inferiors" "par. 1 of the Army Regulations, "required to obey strictly and execute with alacrity and good faith;" and it is the "law-command of his superior officer" which, by the 21st Article 1, "any officer or soldier" may be punished even with death for disobeying. But for the inferior to assume to determine the question of the lawfulness of an order given him by a superior or would of itself, as a general rule, amount to insubordination such an assumption carried into practice would subvert military discipline.¹ Where the order is apparently regular and on its face, he is not to go behind it to satisfy himself if his superior has proceeded with authority, but is to obey it according to its terms, the only exceptions recognized to the rule of obedience being cases of orders so manifestly beyond the legal authority or discretion of the commander as to admit of no rational doubt of their unlawfulness.² Such would be a command to violate a specific law of the land or an established custom or a law of the military service, or an arbitrary command imposing an obligation not justified by law or usage,³ or a command to do something wholly irregular and improper given by a superior incapacitated by intoxication or otherwise to perform his duty. Except in such instances of palpable illegality, which

11 Opins. 713, the Attorney General, referring to a certain military order, held to be legal, says: "It is not for the subordinate officer to judge of the fitness or legality of such order; for the best that can be expected is that he should not refuse obedience to an extreme one which would justify him in refusing obedience."

In a leading case in the navy, *Dinsman v. Wilkes*, 7 Howard, the Supreme Court observes: "There would be an end of all discipline if the seamen and marines on board a ship of war on a distant station were permitted to act upon their own opinion of their rights, and to set off the authority of the commander whenever they supposed it unlawfully exercised."

It may be noted that the ruling in an adjudged militia case, *State v. Hannan*, Smith's Reports of Decisions, 25, that, to entitle a superior to demand obedience of his inferior, "his command must be lawful and reasonable," could scarcely be accepted as good law for the army.

A soldier is justified in law in obeying all orders of his commanding officer "unless they are obviously, and in a manner patent to common sense, illegal." Forsyth, Const. Law, 216. And see DIGEST, 9; Tullock, 83; O'Brien, 83; De Hart, 166; Desty, Am. C. L., 20 a; Des- Olney, 1 Curtis, 306; *Riggs v. State*, 3 Cold. 85. And compare Art. XXV—TWENTY-FIRST ARTICLE.

As to the order to a soldier to take his clothes to be washed by a public laundress, held illegal in *G. C. M. O. 87*, Dept. of the East,

must be of rare occurrence, the inferior should presume that the order was lawful and authorized¹ and obey it accordingly, and in obeying it he can scarcely fail to be held justified by a military court.²

It may be added that an order which might not be regarded as legal in time of peace, may furnish to the inferior obeying it a complete defence in time of *war*, as being warranted by the laws and usages of war. This point, as also this Title in general, will be illustrated in treating of the *civil amenability* of military persons, in PART III of this work.

Compulsion of the Enemy, &c. This defence, as establishing an absence of criminal capacity, is recognized as valid in cases of persons charged with having joined the public enemy in war, or with having associated themselves with rebels, mutineers, and the like, and who claim to have done so through compulsion or inevitable necessity. But it is held in the adjudged cases on the subject that such defence can be sustained by nothing short of proof of an immediate danger of death threatened by the enemy or other compelling party; that neither menace nor impending danger of bodily injury less than loss of life, nor a well-founded apprehension of pecuniary loss or injury to property, will amount to a justification in law.³ Military courts indeed might feel warranted in relaxing this strict rule in special cases, as it was in fact relaxed in certain extreme cases of prisoners of war charged with desertion to the enemy in the late war.⁴ It is to be added that even where the compulsion is originally so overpowered the will of the party as to constitute

1. See G. O. 34 of 1852, where the general rule is laid down by the Secretary of War, (Mr. Conrad,) that an inferior "should act upon the reasonable presumption that his superior was authorized to issue an order which he *might* be authorized to issue. If he acts otherwise, he does so at his peril, and subjects himself to the risk of being punished for disobedience of orders."

2. In a case of an act done under an order admitting of question as to its legality or authority, the inferior who executed it will be more readily justified than the superior who originated the order. See G. O. 27, Dept. of Pa., 1865; *McCall v. McDowell*, Deady, 233.

3. See *McGrowther's Case*, Foster, 14; *Oldcastle's Case*, 1 Hale, 50; *Republica v. McCarthy*, 2 Dallas, 87; *U. S. v. Vigol*, Id. *U. S. v. Hodges*, 2 Wheeler, Cr. Cas., 477; *U. S. v. Griner*, 4 P. 396, 401; *Simmons* § 597.

4. *DIGEST*, 395.

justification, he may yet forfeit his right to have it allowed in defence, by voluntarily remaining and acting with the y, &c., notwithstanding opportunity of escape has been denied.¹

Requirements of Military Discipline. As an inferior may plead on the ground that his alleged offence was committed in obedience to a legal order of a superior, so a *superior*, when armed with some extreme violence or severity toward an inferior, may claim in defence that his alleged act was justified by the requirements of military discipline. This defence, however, will not be accepted as sufficient by a court-martial except in cases where it clearly and satisfactorily appears that the insubordination, criminal attempt, or misconduct of the inferior, could not have been repressed or prevented without a resort to the extreme measure which is the material of the charge. In practice striking or otherwise assaulting of soldiers, as well as the infliction upon them of summary and unauthorized punishments, officers, have repeatedly been made the occasion of trials by court-martial, and where not proved to be fully justified by the demands of discipline have induced severe sentences, or, if not sustained by the courts, (which in some instances have shown themselves too indulgent to the accused,) have called forth severe censure from the reviewing commanders.² Personal violence exercised by an officer against a soldier, by the use of the fist, sword or otherwise, is always an extreme measure and must constitute a serious military offence when resorted to in a case of an emphatic and dignified command, or an immediate ar-

The force and fear must continue all the time the party remains a rebel. It is incumbent on every man who makes force his defence to show an actual force, and that he quitted the service as soon as he could. *McGrowther's Case, ante.* "Those that supplied with victuals in Oldcastle and his accomplices then in rebellion were acquitted by judgment of the Court, because it was found to be done *pro timore et quod recesserunt quam cito potuerunt.*" 1 Hale, P. C. 50. *Re Respublica v. McCarthy, ante*; DIGEST, 395.

¹ G. O. 81 of 1822; Do. 28 of 1829; Do. 47 of 1830; Do. 64 of 1831; Do. 34, 53 of 1842; Do. 2, 4, 6, 17, 68 of 1843; Do. 2, 39 of 1844; G. C. M. O. 645 of 1865; Do. 80 of 1875; G. O. 53, Dept. of the West, 1864; Do. 22, Dept. of the Platte, 1867; Do. 40, Dept. of the East, 1868; Do. 9, Div. of the Atlantic, 1869; Do. 5, Id., 1870; Do. 50, Dept. of the Mo., 1871; Do. 93, Dept. of the South, 1872; also Chapter X—"Disciplinary Punishments."

rest ordered, would have put an end to the insubordination. And the principle governing such cases is of course to be applied with especial strictness to those in which, in the enforcement of discipline, life has been taken.² In all cases indeed of that general class it should be satisfactorily established that the measure imperatively called for by the necessities of discipline at that time, and in that place, and under those circumstances, and that to all appearance, or in all reasonable probability, that the offender could not have been repressed, the escaping or prisoner recaptured, the assailant subdued, or the insubordinate inferior restrained or made subordinate, by any less measure than that actually employed.³ Otherwise the measure should not be accepted as sufficient. And in time of war the superior should be held to the strictest responsibility.⁴

V. THE CONCLUDING STATEMENT.

Of what it Consists. The testimony on both sides concluded, either party or both parties—the accused *first* and the judge advocate *after* him—may present a closing “statement” or address to the court, which may be oral but is commonly read from a writing. While, strictly, the closing argument, as of the proof, belongs to the party who has the initiative of the issue,⁵ the order indicated is that now in vogue observed in the practice of our courts-martial, whatever the nature of the defence, if any, which may have been made

1. See cases in the following Orders in which officers have been held to account for the unjustifiable striking, &c., of soldiers:—G. O. 64 Do. 4, 6, 68 of 1843; Do. 2, 39 of 1844; Do. 53, Dept. of Va. Ca., 1864; Do. 22, Dept. of the Platte, 1867; Do. 9, Div. of the Pacific, 1869; Do. 5, Id., 1870.

2. See cases of officers dismissed, &c., for unjustifiably taking of inferiors,—in G. C. M. O. 14 of 1871; Do. 28 of 1873; Do. 47 Do. 112, Dept. of the East, 1870; G. O. 87, Northern Dept., 1871; 39, 56, Dept. of the Susquehanna, 1864; Do. 44, Dept. of W. 1864; Do. 7, Dept. of Pa., 1865; Do. 17, Dept. of Ky., 1865; Dept. of So. Ca., 1865; Do. 25, Dept. of La., 1866; Do. 89, Sec. Dist., 1868. And compare U. S. v. Carr, 1 Woods, 480; Lieutenant's Case, Hickman, 197-9; Cases of Maxwell and Porteous, 1 Digest, 162-7.

3. See DIGEST, 314.

4. DIGEST, 314. And see, on this general subject, Chapter X on “Disciplinary Punishments.”

5. *Miller v. Thorn*, 56 N. Y. 402.

6. DIGEST, 457-8. Either party, or both parties, may have the right to make a statement. Id., 458.

ment, if in writing, is attached to the record as an exhibit; verbal, it is generally entered in the body of the record,¹ in words, as nearly as they can be given, of the party. The statement may consist of a brief summary or version of the evidence, with such explanation, or allegation of motive, excuse, or extenuation, &c., as the party may desire to offer, or may embrace, with the facts, a presentation also of the law of case and an argument both upon the facts and the law.

As to Privilege. A very considerable freedom is allowable here within certain limits.² The accused, for example, in his statement may sharply criticize the testimony as given by the adverse witnesses, and their apparent or supposed *animus* in giving it, as well as the conduct, motives, &c., of the persons through whose statement or at whose instance he has been brought to trial, and especially those of the actual prosecutor or responsible accuser. Evidence of malice on the part of the latter will justify an increased asperity of comment. But between animadversion of character and defamatory personalities a line should be drawn, and the latter should not be permitted. Further, a proper consideration for the discipline and established military relations of the service should exclude from the statement gratuitously disrespectful language toward superiors or the court, as well as any charge of insubordination and defiance of authority.³ But within these limitations the court will rarely be called upon to check the statement, who, under the critical circumstances in which he is placed, should certainly be allowed the largest latitude of expression consistent with the observance of the conditions mentioned,

G. O. 4, Dept. of N. Mex., 1864.

¹ See Tytler, 302; Simmons § 587; Pipon & Col. 55; Macomb, 45; O'Brien, 258, 262; De Hart, 160; Benét, 116; Coppée, 82; DIGEST, § G. O. 16 of 1851; Do. 31, Div. of the Atlantic, 1873.

² It is well remarked by the Secretary of War in G. O. 25 of 1859 that the statement cannot be allowed to 'serve as a cover for language amounting to a breach of military discipline.' The use in the statement of unseemly and unmilitary language has been severely commented upon by the courts in connection with their findings, (see G. O. of May 10, 1816; *Aut. Hyder's Trial*, p. 156,) and still more frequently by reviewing officers. G. O. 3 of 1826; Do. 64 of 1827; Do. 16 of 1851; Do. 2 of 1861; Do. 3, Army of the Potomac, 1861; Do. 6, Dept. of La., 1869; Do. 36, Middle Dept., 1864; Do. 52, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1868, *high*—as in some other cases, see *post*—the court is declared to be erroneous in receiving the paper, or allowing it to be read.

the non-observance of which indeed could give no additional force to the address.¹

Where the statement manifestly exceeds a reasonable freedom and offends in either of the particulars above indicated, the court may properly warn the accused that he is transcending the proprieties, and if he persists and does not withdraw the objectionable portion, may refuse to allow him to proceed or to admit his statement into the record.² In an extreme case the court may properly report the facts to the reviewing authority for the preferring of charges or other action.³ The use of "menacing words," in the sense of Art. 86, may expose the party to be proceeded against as for a contempt. It may be added that mere discursiveness or irrelevancy in the statement will not justify the court in restricting it unless it be thus so protracted as to delay unconscionably the proceedings.

As to the statement or argument on the part of the *prosecution* it is comparatively rare that this becomes subject to criticism on account of gross improprieties of language. Where, however, it exceeds a proper license, the same procedure is to be observed as in a case of a similar address on the part of the accused.⁴

1. As remarked in *Bombay R.*, 16, an indulgence in personalities not only weakens a defence but has the effect of disposing the pardoning power against lenity toward the accused.

2. *Simmons* § 588; *McNaghten*, 210; *Maccomb*, 46; *O'Brien*, 25; *De Hart*, 101; *Dugest*, 457. In *G. O.* 3, *Army of the Potomac*, 1862, where the statement is reflected upon as of an improper character, it is added:—"The court would have been entirely justified in excluding it. And see case in *G. O.* 23, *Dept. of the Columbia*, 1876. In a case *G. O.* 15, *Navy Dept.*, 1870, where the accused officer presented a statement "so disrespectful that the court would not receive it," and thereupon declined to offer any other, his action was censured by the Secretary of the Navy.

It is for the court, of course, if the occasion justifies it, to rule out the statement. The judge advocate has no authority to reject or suppress it, however objectionable. *G. O.* 31, *Div. of the Atlantic*, 1873.

3. In some cases officers have been brought to trial for disrespectful language not contained in their addresses, and in general convicted and sometimes dismissed. *G. O.* 2 of 1850; Do. 25 of 1859; *McNaghten*, 200. And see case of summary dismissal cited from *James*, *post*.

4. In a case of *James*, 1040, 403, in which the court, in connection with its judgment, reflects upon the address of the *prosecutor*, (who could not raise and maintain charges against a superior officer,) the reviewing authority, concerning procedure to pronounce his dismissal from the service.

Procedure as to Reading, &c., of Statement. The statement of the accused, if written, may be read by the accused himself, by his counsel, by a friend, or by the judge advocate. The latter would not properly, and does not in practice, act herein for the accused, where he proposes himself to present a closing address. In some important cases, in lieu of a written statement, counsel have addressed to the court oral arguments, or arguments partly oral and partly written, the oral portion being taken down by a stenographer.

The Statement as Evidence. While all due consideration should be given to a statement properly presented, the statement is not evidence but a personal declaration or defence, and cannot legally be acted upon as evidence either by the court or review authority.¹ Nor can it be a vehicle of evidence, or properly receive documents or other writings, or even averments of material facts,² which, if duly introduced, would be evidence; and when embraced in it, they are no more evidence than any other part.

In some instances the statement has been *sworn* to under the impression that it will thus answer as a form of the exercise by the accused of the privilege, (accorded by the Act of March 16, 1865,) of testifying in his own behalf, and so become evidence. This impression is erroneous;³ it is irregular and improper to permit the statement to be sworn to, and that it is an affidavit of nothing to its legal effect.⁴ The statement and the testimony are distinct and independent proceedings, and the accused may, and often does, make a statement although he may previously have taken the stand as a witness.⁵

While the statement proper cannot be regarded as evidence, yet it is—as it is expressed in the Digest⁶—the accused “clearly

G. O. 21, Middle Dept., 1865; Do. 28, Dept. of W. Va., 1865; Do. 31, Fifth Mil. Dist., 1869; Do. 23, Dept. of the South, 1870; Digest, 457.

See Benét, 116.

DIGEST, 482.

G. C. M. O. 2, Dept. of the Mo., 1880; Do. 42, Dept. of Texas, 1880; Do. 6, 13, Id., 1882.

G. C. M. O. 2, Dept. of the Mo., 1880; Do. 19, Id., 1881; Digest, 457.

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and unequivocally admits therein *facts* material to the prosecution, such may properly be viewed by the court and reviewing officer as practically *in the case*." Such facts must of course not be inconsistent with the plea. But admissions of this sort or scarcely in any event constitute a sufficient basis for a prosecution unless supported by material testimony on the trial.

VI. CONTEMPTS.

Source of the Authority of Courts-Martial to Punish for Contempt. A general power to punish for contempt—necessary as it is to protect the dignity of judicial tribunals and ensure a proper administration of public justice¹—is inherent in all superior courts of record, independently of legislation.² But it "does not arise from the mere exercise of judicial functions," and so is not commonly possessed by inferior courts unless the same are courts of record, or are specially empowered to exercise this authority by express statute.³ Courts-martial, not being courts of record,⁴ nor indeed, strictly, courts at all in the sense of being a part of the judicial department of the government, but only instrumentalities in aid of the executive arm, of temporary and limited powers, without the capacity to issue process or the means of enforcing their judgments,⁵ have no general inherent authority to punish for contempt, and are only authorized so to punish as they are thereto expressly empowered by the 86th Article of war.

1. *Ex parte* Robinson, 19 Wallace, 510; *In re* Cooper, 32 Vt. 254; State v. Goff, Wright, 79; *Ex parte* Smith, 28 Ind. 47; Samuel, 633; O'Brien, 151-2; De Hart, 102.

2. 2 Hawkins, c. 1, s. 15; 4 Black. Com. 286; Samuel, 633; U. S. v. Hudson, 7 Cranch, 34; Anderson v. Dunn, 6 Wheaton, 227; *Ex parte* Robinson, 19 Wallace, 505; *In re* Kerrigan, 33 N. J. 344, 347; *In re* Cooper, 32 Vt. 254.

3. *In re* Kerrigan, *ante*.

4. See *In re* Cooper, *ante*; Morrison v. McDonald, 21 Me. 556.

5. Chambers v. Jennings, 7 Mod. 125; *Ex parte* Watkins, 3 Peters 200; Wilson v. John, 2 Binn. 215. The view expressed by Thring (Criminal Law of the Navy, 103,) that a court-martial is a court of record and invested with the same power to punish for contempt as any common law court, if applicable—which is questioned—to English naval courts-martial, is certainly not law as applied to our courts-martial as governed by Art. 86.

6. See Chapter V.

Art. 86—Its General Effect. This Article is as follows:—*court-martial may punish, at discretion, any person who uses menacing words, signs, or gestures, in its presence, or who disturbs its proceedings, by any riot or disorder.*" Its proper name may be said to be Art. 54 of the Code of James II, (itself derived from provisions of the Arts. of 1639, 1642 and 1666,) which made punishable the use of "braving or menacing words, signs, or gestures," as also the 'drawing of a sword,' in the presence of the court. Its effect in our law is to authorize the punishment only of "*direct*" contempts, or contempts committed in the presence or immediate proximity of the court when in session, distinguished from "*constructive*" contempts, *i. e.* acts committed at a distance from the court, or beyond its "precinct," which operate to prevent and obstruct the due administration of justice.' Thus, such acts as a refusal or neglect by a witness to appear when duly summoned; or a publication in a newspaper reflecting improperly upon the action of the court or officers in a pending case, &c.,—acts which would be constructive contempts in the civil procedure,—would not be punishable by a court-martial under Art. 86.

Further, the Article contemplating *direct* contempts, its effect is to authorize the punishment of the acts which it enumerates in such manner as direct contempts are properly punished,³ *summarily*.

Construction of the Article—"A court-martial." This general description includes *inferior* equally with the superior court-martial. Some of the authorities indeed, repeating the view of Simmons,⁴ have expressed the opinion that a regimental garrison court was not empowered to proceed for a contempt

The two kinds of contempts at common law are sometimes also designated as *criminal* and *constructive*. The direct and constructive contempts which may be taken cognizance of by the U. S. courts are defined in Sec. 725, Rev. Sts. And see *Ex parte Robinson*, 19 Wall. 511.

That a failure so to appear by a military witness is not punishable contempt under Art. 86, but is a "neglect" cognizable under Art. 87, was noticed by Maj. Gen. Thomas, in G. O. 58, Dept. of the Command, 1868.

Johnston v. Com., 1 Bibb, 598; *Crow v. State*, 24 Texas, 13; *State v. Duvinet*, 24 La. An. 121. And see Samuel, 631-633; Simmons § Harcourt, 158; O'Brien, 311; De Hart, 103.

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against an officer although it could do so against an enlisted man.¹ This opinion is founded upon the provision of the statute that such a court shall not *try* a commissioned officer. But the distinction is lost sight of between a trial and a proceeding for contempt, the latter not being a trial but a summary assessment and enforcement of executive authority. Thus an officer who is guilty of a contempt before an inferior court, as a witness or otherwise, may be as legally subjected to the punishment provided by the Article as may a soldier, and as proper he may be before a general court.

The term under consideration, "a court-martial," cannot be held to include a *court of inquiry*.² There is not indeed the reason for investing a court of inquiry with authority to punish for contempt as exists in the case of a court-martial, the former not administering justice or being in fact a court, but a board or commission of investigation. Moreover the Article conferring a summary and in a measure arbitrary power, is strictly construed, and, as it does not give this power to a court of inquiry in express terms, cannot properly be held to confer the same by implication.³

It may be observed in this connection that, in order to empower a *court-martial* to proceed as for a contempt, under Art. 86, it is not essential that it should be *sworn* for the trial for which it is assembled. It cannot indeed proceed to *trial* without the traditional qualification of an oath, but, as already remarked, the proceeding for a contempt is not a trial. Thus, before the oath is taken by which the organization for the trial is completed the court is as fully empowered to pass upon and punish a contempt as it is subsequently. Such was in fact the ruling of the Judge Advocate of the Army in an early case in 1844,⁴ and such was the action taken by the court in a more recent case, promulgated

1. Griffiths, 30; Harcourt, 157; De Hart, 105; Benét, 31.

2. A contrary view expressed by De Hart, (p. 279,) is repeated by Benét, (p. 182.) It may be noted that the power in question is also given to courts of inquiry by the Articles specifically relating to the same—Arts. 115-121.

3. "The power to punish for an alleged contempt is in its nature arbitrary, and its exercise is not to be upheld except under the circumstances and in the manner prescribed by law." Batchelder v. N. 42 Cal. 414.

4. Private Shalon's case, referred to in note *post*, under "Punish

General Orders,¹ in which the proceedings were approved by President.

May punish at discretion. These words, it is to be marked, are not mandatory, the court being *authorized* not *required* to punish. Thus it is always open to the court to *waive* right of proceeding under the Article, and, instead, to prefer charges against the offender, through its president or judge advocate, or to report the facts to the proper commander for his opinion.² In the majority of the cases in our service this course in fact been pursued.³ Except, however, where the offence committed is of a peculiarly grave character, demanding a severe punishment and one not appropriate to the action under consideration, it will be the preferable course,⁴ and indeed in general duty of the court,⁵ to proceed summarily under the Article.

Punishment. As to the punishment authorized, the "decision" of the court, in the absence of any statutory provision,

G. C. M. O. 36 of 1870.

Simmons, (§ 434,) referring to this alternative mode of proceeding, says:—"At other times charges have been preferred by the court, or direction of the confirming or other superior authority, whose notice has been drawn to the offence either by a special report or by the circumstances appearing in the record of the proceedings." And see Samuel, Griffiths, 30; Harcourt, 158; O'Brien, 152; G. O. 3 of 1853. There is a similar *civil* procedure. Thus the court say in Williams Case, 26 Pa. St. 19:—"It (contempt) is punished sometimes by punishment, and sometimes in a summary proceeding." And to a similar effect see *U. S. v. Jacobi*, 1 Flippin, 108, and *In re Mullee*, 7 Blatchford, where it is held that a contempt offered to a U. S. court is a crime against the United States.

See instances in G. O. 14 of 1855; Do. 1 of 1858; G. C. M. O. 37 of 1873; G. O. 63, Dept. of the Tenn., 1863; Do. 126, Sixteenth Army Corps, 1863; G. C. M. O. 9, Fourth Mil. Dist., 1867; G. O. 58, Dept. of Cumberland, 1868; Do. 17, Dept. of the Columbia, 1871; Do. 79, Dept. of the South, 1874; Do. 39, Div. of the Atlantic, 1876; G. C. M. O. 1, Dept. of the Platte, 1874. And compare cases reported by Hough, 97; (P.) 675. The charge should be laid under Art. 62, or, in an aggravated case of an officer, under Art. 61. The trial should, obviously, be before a new court, *i. e.* a court composed of officers other than those who were members of the court before which the contempt was committed. See Hough, (P.) 676; Harcourt, 158.

Samuel, 638; Harcourt, 158; O'Brien, 152; De Hart, 106.

See *In re Cooper*, 32 Vt. 257, where it is said of the power to punish for contempt:—"Its exercise is not merely personal to the court but its dignity: it is due to the authority of law and the administration of justice."

or defined custom of the service, on the subject, will properly be guided in the first instance by a reference to the common law and the civil statutes and practice. From these sources it is ascertained that the appropriate and customary punishment for contempt is fine or imprisonment, or fine *with* imprisonment. Such was the usual punishment at common law,¹ and such—fine or imprisonment—is the only penalty authorized by the Revised Statutes to be imposed by the courts of the United States. In the civil practice generally the punishment for direct contempt is commonly either a small fine which can be satisfied at the moment or presently, or a brief commitment intended for temporary restraint of the person;² it being evidently deemed to be of the essence of such punishment that it should be simple and light and provisional, in the same manner as the summary

1. Anciently, upon the theory that the King was present in the courts of justice, and a contempt was a personal affront to his majesty, some contempts were punishable with death. 4 Black. Com. 124. In the Articles of War of the Earls of Northumberland and Essex, in the reign of Chas. I, contempts before military courts were made summarily punishable. Samuel, 630; 1 Clode, (M. F.) 444.

2. Rev. Sts., Sec. 125. And see *Ex parte Robinson*, 19 Wall. 512. The statute is merely declaratory of the common law principle. *Anderson v. Dunn*, 6 Wheaton, 227.

3. A review of the leading cases shows that the fine adjudged (in the first offence) has generally been not less than five nor more than one hundred dollars. In some cases the judgment has been that the person stand committed to jail till the fine is paid. When imprisonment has been imposed, it has very rarely exceeded thirty days and sometimes has been limited to a few hours. In *Hill v. Crandall*, 52 Ills. 70, an offender, an attorney, for contemptuous and defiant language addressed to the court, was required to pay a fine of five dollars and be imprisoned in the county jail until it was paid. In *People v. Boughton*, 1 B. Monro, 143-6, where the Attorney General of the State and a counsel in the case engaged in an altercation and exchanged blows, the court committed them both to the common jail for twenty-four hours. The same term, with a fine of \$100 and costs, was imposed, for an assault committed by an attorney on the judge, in *State v. Garland*, 25 La. An. 5. In the case of *In re Kerrigan*, 33 N. J. 344, the punishment, for insulting language addressed to the court by a party present, was imprisonment in the county jail for fifteen days. In *Middlebrook v. State*, 43 Conn. 157, the punishment adjudged, for a violent assault committed in the court room by the plaintiff in a suit upon the counsel for the defendant, was thirty days in the common jail, with \$100 fine and costs. The punishment should not be for an indefinite period but for a time practically certain. *King v. James*, 5 B. & Ald. 894; *Yates v. People*, 6 John. 410; *Yates v. Lansing*, 9 Johns. 419. In the larger number of cases the penalty has been *fine* only.

ing of which it is the result is secondary and incidental in character.

, in *military* cases, the appropriate punishment under the law would in general be either a fine, in the form of a forfeiture of pay moderate in amount and proportioned to the rank and pay of the offender, or a confinement for a certain number of hours or days either in the guard-house or in quarters.¹ The court, however, would not be precluded from substituting, in some other military punishment, not inappropriate to the occasion nor excessive in quality or quantity.² The extent and character of the penalty will depend mainly upon the particular *circumstances* which exhibit the offence as aggravated or mitigated,³ and upon the *intent* of the party.⁴ In imposing the punishment some regard may well be had to the relation which the offender bears to the trial or investigation. Thus if he be accused, his punishment should, if practicable, not be such

¹ In adjudging confinement, the distinction indicated in the Army Regulations between the kinds of restraint appropriate for officers and soldiers, respectively, may ordinarily well be observed. See Samuel, *supra*. Where, however, an officer is already in close arrest, *i. e.* confined to his quarters, the court is not precluded from imposing, for a slight offence, a stricter restraint. Thus in a case of this kind in G. C. M. O. of 1870, the punishment adjudged was—"To be confined in charge of the guard in the post guard-house, during the pleasure of the court, and denied all communication with any one except his counsel."

² In a case of a soldier published in G. C. M. O. 1, Dept. of Texas, there was added to a confinement the penalty of walking for a certain period with a loaded knapsack, weighing 25 pounds.

³ As to the penalties of fine and imprisonment, Samuel, (p. 634,) substitutes for cases of officers—"reprimand." If the court resort to this punishment, it may adjudge the reprimand to be administered at once by the president of the court, or by the reviewing authority in passing the whole case.

⁴ The offence will be aggravated where it is *repeated*, (see, for example, *The King v. Davison*, 4 B. & Ald. 333, where the prisoner who pleaded his own defence, was, for repeated improper language used in argument, fined successively £20, £40, and again £40;) or where it is a *second* offence though of a different nature, (see *State v. Garland*, 10 An. 532;) or where it is committed after a warning or admonition from the court, (as in both these cases;) or where it is justified by the facts on the hearing, (as in *State v. Garland*.) See *post*—"Purging from contempt."

⁵ See *Sturoc's case*, 48 N. H. 432. As to the effect of disavowals of perjury, and of expressions of regret, in excusing or purging from contempt, see *post*.

is to interfere either with the regular course of the trial or the presentation of his defence to the same.¹

It is quite clear that the imposition of dismissal, suspension, dishonorable discharge, prolonged forfeiture, or protracted very severe imprisonment—penalties which have been resorted to in some cases²—would be quite foreign to the purpose and province of a proceeding for contempt, and should properly be regarded as beyond the scope of the authority of a court-martial under the 86th Article. Punishments of this kind might be appropriate where the party, instead of being proceeded against as for a contempt, was brought to trial upon a charge laid under Art. 91 or 92, for some grave military offence involved in his conduct.

Execution of the punishment. The punishment, in the form of imprisonment or forfeiture of pay, may be executed through the orders of the reviewing officer, in passing upon the proceedings, in the same manner as a sentence.³ If the punishment consists in im-

1. See *The King v. Davison*, 4 B. & Ald. 340.

2. The following were instances of summary punishment for conduct excessive in kind or degree: Case of Lt. Col. Backenstos, adjudged "to be cashiered," published in G. O. 14 of 1850; A case, cited by G. C. M. O. 455, of a surgeon, punished by "suspension from rank and allowances for six months;" A case of a soldier mentioned by G. C. M. O. 435, note, and also Hough, (P., 676,) condemned to "imprisonment for life;" Case of Private Shalon, 7th U. S. Inf., adjudged "to be confined for six months in a dark prison—every month on bread and water, and chained to the floor—and to forfeit pay for the same period;" A case published in G. C. M. O. 37, of a civilian witness at a trial before a military commission, adjudged "to be confined at hard labor for one year, and to forfeit one or five hundred dollars, and to be further confined until such order be made." In the first and third of these cases the punishment was afterwards disapproved by the reviewing authority. In Shalon's case it was fully mitigated. In the last case, the party having been in confinement two months, the punishment was remitted by the District Commander who remarked that confinement *at hard labor*, for contempt, was "unusual and improper." It is believed, however, that such a penalty would not necessarily be improper if restricted to a brief period. In a case in G. O. 79, Dept. of the South, 1874, where a soldier for contempt not aggravated, was adjudged to be confined at hard labor six months, (with a forfeiture of \$5 per month,) the punishment was disapproved by Gen. McDowell to be "excessive" and was mitigated to confinement at hard labor for one month."

3. That an accused may have been *acquitted* of a charge for which he was brought to trial cannot affect the authority to execute a punishment a

or other bodily restraint, it may be executed through the of the convening authority, upon a reference and report of acts to him by the court, if he is near at hand or readily accessible; if not, the court, which is incapable of executing its mandate,² may apply in the first instance to the post or other adiate commander who will execute the judgment with the propriety and legality as he executes the arrest of the accused under the charges, furnishes the court with a guard, or performs any other ministerial function in aid of its proceedings.³ Construing the provisions of the Article under consideration in connection with those of Arts. 104 and 109, it may perhaps be questioned whether reviewing officers are authorized to *disapprove* punishments imposed for contempts by general courts-martial. Holding that they have the power, as in the case of sentences, clearly, in view of the discretion as to punishment expressly vested in the court by the Article, that such power should rarely be exercised.

any person." This designation includes certainly any *any* person who may be before the court, whether in an official capacity or otherwise. It thus embraces the judge advocate,³ the accused, a military witness, prosecutor, counsel, clerk, or surgeon, or any officer or soldier who may be present as a spectator. Rank of the person is immaterial.⁴ Though the party charge-

pending the trial, for a contempt committed. See Hough, (Pract. 250, note 41.

It would appear that *English* courts-martial have sometimes placed persons in arrest for contempt. See Samuel, 635; Hough, 455. Whether such an authority would now be conceded to them, it is clear that such can be exercised by courts-martial in this country. See Chapter 1.

Were courts-martial attended by provost-marshals, these officials would be sufficient for the execution of some minor punishments under Art. 106.

The case of the judge advocate, however, is so assimilated to that of a member, (see text *post*,) that although the court would be fully empowered to punish him summarily for a contempt, it would probably, in the case of any aggravation, prefer to adjourn, and, reporting the facts to the convening authority, (with formal charges, if thought proper,) appoint him at the same time for the detail of a new judge advocate.

See O'Brien, 152-3; also McNaghten, 165-168, where is aptly presented the case of the commitment, for an aggravated contempt, of the Duke of Wales, afterwards Henry V, by Sir Wm. Gascoigne as Chief Justice of the King's Bench.

able with the contempt may be senior in rank to all the members of the court, he is yet equally subject to be proceeded against under the Article as if he were the youngest officer in date in the service. To this effect was the ruling in the leading case of Major John Browne of the British army, in 1786, as reported by Samuel and other subsequent writers.¹

Inclusion of civilians. Whether the term "any person" includes also *civilians* is a question upon which the authorities have differed.² In the opinion of the author, a court-martial while empowered of course to cause a disorderly civilian to be ejected from the court-room, is also empowered, under the comprehensive terms of Art. 86, to punish, for a direct contempt, by fine or imprisonment, any such civil person, whether witness, clerk, reporter, counsel, or a mere spectator at the trial, with the same legality as it may an officer or soldier of the army. The enforcing of the Article in the instance of a civil person is not an exercise of military jurisdiction over him. He is not subject to trial and punishment for a military offence, but to the legal penalties of a defiance of the authority of the United States offered to its legally-constituted representative. Any less power in the court than one of summary punishment would be imperfect and insufficient under the circumstances. "The mere power," says Aldis J., in a case in Vermont,³ to remove disorderly persons from the court-room would be wholly inadequate to secure either the proper transaction and dispatch of business or the respect and obedience due to the court and necessary for the administration of justice." In view, however, of the embarrassments likely to attend the execution through military machinery of a punishment adjudged a civilian for a contempt under the Article, it would in general be advised that a court-martial, in a case of such contempt, should confine itself to causing the party to be removed as a disorderly person, and, in

¹ See especially Samuel, 636.

² Samuel, (p. 638-9; and see Harcourt, 158; Clode, 138,) held it negative; McNaghten, (p. 168-9,) and Hough, (p. 440,) the affirmative. De Hart, (p. 106-8,) while treating the question as one involving doubt, seems to be of opinion that a court-martial may not punish a civilian for a contempt under the Article. Benét, (p. 32,) expresses a contrary view.

³ *In re* Cooper, 32 Vt. 258.

avated instance, where practicable, procuring a complaint to be lodged against him for a breach of the public peace. Where, however, the civilian is a person employed by the military authorities in connection with the army as a post-trader, quartermaster's boy, &c., the preferable course will generally be to punish by a confinement in the post guard-house, for a brief period, which he shall purge his contempt.

Members of the court not included. Though it is not a necessary implication from the terms of the Article, it is yet a natural inference from its context, that it could not have been intended in the designation "*any person*," comprehensive though it is, to include a member of the court itself. And so it has been in this country; a direct ruling on the point by the Secretary of War having been made in 1850, in the case of Lt. Col. Backenstos. This officer, as senior member and president of a court-martial, was summarily proceeded against by the court as for a contempt, (consisting in certain arbitrary and disorderly conduct,) and was sentenced "to be expelled from the court and to be cashiered." Upon this action the following decision was announced in General Orders:—"The proceedings of the court having been submitted to the President of the United States are not approved, as the 76th" (the present 86th) "Article does not confer on a court-martial the power to punish its members." In a case of this character, therefore, the proper course, in view of this rule, would in general be for the court to convene and at once report the facts to the convening authority, with a formal charge preferred, (if thought proper,) with a view to bringing the offending member brought to trial for conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline.²

Who uses any menacing words, signs, or gestures, in the presence. This phraseology is unsatisfactory; the employment of the single descriptive term "menacing" having the effect of excluding from the cognizance of the court, under the Article, the use, in its presence, of improper words, &c., which do not express or involve a threat or defiance.³ Thus lan-

² O. 14 of 1850.

³ See Army Regulations, par. 884, based on the case of Backenstos. As to *menacing* words, they imply a threat." Hough, (C. M.) in the manner, tone, emphasis, &c., of the speaker, with the sur-

guage, however disrespectful, if it be not of a minacious character cannot, unless actually amounting to or creating a *disorder*, in the sense of the further provision of the Article,¹ be made the occasion of summary proceedings and punishment as for a contempt—a defect certainly in the statute.

Menacing or threatening words or acts aimed at the court or its individual *members* are no doubt especially contemplated by the Article;² and words of this nature may either be spoken, or presented in a writing, as, for instance, in the closing address or argument.³ Menaces, however, if directed at the accused or witness, or at the judge advocate, or any other person in a *public* official position before the court or under its legal protection would also, it is conceived, properly fall within the designation of the Article, such conduct being equally a contempt of the court itself.⁴ As to the case of a witness, while the ordinary bullying practised sometimes toward persons on the stand would scarcely come under the description of 'menacing words, gestures,' but an attempt to intimidate a witness, by alarming him with the prospect of some specific danger in case he should make or refuse to make a certain disclosure or statement, might readily be deemed to fall within the category.

The term "*in its presence*" is taken to mean before the court in the court-room, or in its sight or hearing, and also while it is in session. Menacing language, &c., however, used toward

rounding circumstances, are to be taken into consideration in determining whether his language imports a menace. See *Ex parte Robinson*, 19 Wallace, 511; *In re Cooper*, 32 Vt. 256; Hough, 455.

1. Such were the character and circumstances of the language employed in the case of contempt published in G. O. 17, Dept. of the Columbia, 1871, where the accused, when asked by the judge advocate if he had any statement to make to the court, replied—"I'll be damned if I have any statement to make," and left the court-room abruptly and without proper authority. And see cases in G. C. M. O. Dept. of Texas, 1875; G. O. 79, Dept. of the South, 1874; G. O. 16, Sixteenth Army Corps, 1863—where disrespectful and insolent language was, apparently as constituting a *disorder*, treated as a contempt.

2. See the instance given in James, 504, and Hough, 454, of an officer who, as prosecutor, repeatedly menaced the court "with the vengeance of a superior tribunal, accompanying his expressions by the most defiant attitudes."

3. See case cited in Hough, 455; also *The King v. Davison*, cit. note *ante*.

4. See 4 Black. Com. 126; Hough, 443.

or a member, during a recess,—the day's session of the court having been adjourned,—might well be regarded as the terms of the Article.¹

who disturbs its proceedings by any riot or dis-

' The word "riot" is regarded as here employed not in its legal sense, but rather in the sense in which it is commonly used, as meaning—to cite the definition of Webster—"a riotous or unrestrained behaviour; uproar; tumult." The term "disorder" is still more general, and, in a broad sense, (analogous to that in which it is employed in Art. 62,) would mean, "any conduct in breach of the order of the proceedings." In the connection in which it here occurs, it is construed as signifying more than a mere irregularity and as importing disorder and pronounced as to amount to a positive intrusion upon the proceedings of the court. The more numerous examples of such a disorder and disturbance as are held to be contemplated by the Article are—assaults committed upon witnesses,² or upon persons connected with the court or properly present;³ altercations between counsel⁴ or spectators;⁵ drunken⁶

compare *State v. Garland*, 25 La. An. 532, where an assault upon the judge, during a recess of the court, but while it remained adjourned, was held a direct contempt, and punished as stated *ante*.

cases reported in Hough, 97; *Id.*, (P.) 675; also in note *ante*, "Punishment."

likewise all such as are guilty of any injurious treatment to those immediately under the protection of a court of justice, are punished by fine and imprisonment." 4 Black. Com. 126. And see 442. The leading instance in our service is that published in 3, Dept. of the Tenn., 1863, where a witness assaulted and shot with a pistol, in the court-room, the accused, for failing to impeach his testimony. He was not proceeded against at the bar but tried for murder.

case of *People v. Boughton*, cited in note under "Punishment." But hasty expressions of counsel, under excitement, will very often be overlooked where no contempt is intended. *St. Croix v. Wright*, 532.

U. S. v. Emerson, 4 Cranch C., 188; *State v. Woodfin*, 5 Ire. The latter case was one of a breach of the peace *in facie curiæ*, arising in a fight between two individuals just outside of the court-

3. C. M. O. 59, Dept. of the Platte, 1872, a case is referred to where ordered by the court to be confined for contempt in using abusive language, in his testimony as a witness, while apparently intox-

or indecent conduct; loud and continued conversation, noise or confusion which prevents the court from hearing testimony, &c.: any shouting, cheering, or other expressions of applause or disapprobation, especially if repeated after checked contumelious or otherwise disrespectful language addressed to the court or a member or the judge advocate.

In general, however, contempts by way of drunken conduct on the part not only of members but also of parties or witnesses, have made the occasion of formal charges, under Art. 62, (formerly Art. 61) and regular trials before new courts. See cases of this kind in G. O. 1 of 1855; Do. 1 of 1858; G. C. M. O. 52, Dept. of Va., 1865; Do. Fourth Md. Dist., 1867; Do. 7, Dept. of the Platte, 1874; G. O. 1 of the Atlantic, 1876. In G. C. M. O. 39, Hdqrs. of Army, 1875, is a case of an officer charged and convicted under both Art. 61 and Art. 62 for appearing in uniform drunk before the court by which he was being tried. In the case in G. O. 1 of 1858, the offender, a member, became disorderly upon being challenged.

1. In G. C. M. O. 1, Dept. of Texas, 1875, it was properly held to constitute a contempt under Art. 86 for a soldier to come before court by which he was to be tried with his clothing in disorder.

2. In the case of Acton tried for murder, 17 Howell's State Trials, 435, 1700, the judge said—"Crier, make proclamation to keep silence under pain of imprisonment. This is a trial for life and death, and shall admit any one that don't hold their peace."

3. See *Whittem v. State*, 36 Ind. 212; *State v. Goff, Wright, & Coalter*, Id. 421; *Hough*, 444. "It is sufficient that the noise or hindrance be such, however small, so that the court cannot distinctly hear what is addressed to it, by its members, &c., or those before the court as witnesses." Id. 452.

4. In the report of the case of Colledge, in 8 How. S. T., 714, (1680) after the statement of the verdict of guilty, the following occurs:—"which there was a great shout given, at which the Court being offended, one person who was observed by the Crier to be particularly concerned in the shout was committed to gaol for that night, but the next morning having received a public reproof, was discharged." In the report of the trial of the Dean of St. Asaph, 21 How. S. T., 865, (1783,) during the reading of some remarks of Erskine as counsel for the defence, the note is made—"Here some of the audience clapped, and the Court asked a gentleman (X)." In *Stone's case*, 6 Term, 530, (also reported in 15 How. S. T., 1438,) it is narrated that:—"On this, (the rendering of the verdict of not guilty,) there was considerable shout in the hall, and a man of the name of Thompson, jumping up in the middle of the court waving his hat and halloing, was taken into custody and fined 100s." But see the note to the case of the Earl of Shaftesbury, 8 Term, 1701, where, when the grand jury "returned the bill '*Ignoramus*,' the people fell a hollowing and shouting," but no one was punished.

imperate a character as to derange the proceedings, especially persisted in after a warning from the court.¹

but acts not of a violent or disturbing character, though they might constitute contempts before the civil courts, would not be *orders* in the sense of the present Article. Thus a quiet refusal by a witness to be sworn, or to answer a proper question on examination, or a standing mute or simple refusal to testify at all,² would not be punishable as disorders and contempts before court-martial.

It is not essential that a disturbance of the court or interruption of its business should have been *purposed* by the party; that he claims any such purpose will not affect the offence.³ "The question whether a contempt has or has not been committed does depend on the intention of the party but upon the act he has done. It is a conclusion of law from the act."⁴ Where, however, the court is satisfied that the contempt was quite unintentional, it will certainly impose a less penalty,⁵ or it may, in its discretion, refrain from proceeding to punish at all.⁶

The words "in its presence" not being connected in the context with the clause of the Article under consideration, the same

See case in G. C. M. O. 1, Dept. of Texas, 1875; also *Hill v. Hall*, cited in note *ante*, under "*Punishment*."

DIGEST, 69. This ruling, made by Judge Advocate General Dunn April, 1880, was to the effect that a court-martial, having no general non-law power to punish for contempt, (see Chapter V,) and not yet thereto authorized by the terms of Art. 86, was not empowered to punish, as for a contempt or otherwise, a witness duly summoned before who refused to testify. This conclusion has recently been affirmed by an opinion of Acting Judge Advocate General Lieber, of Aug. 27, 1885—also by an opinion of the Attorney General of Oct. 23, 1885—given in the case of a civilian witness, who, on being duly summoned and appearing before a court-martial in the Department of Texas, stood mute. The Atty. Gen. in holding that the power could not be exercised under the existing law, notices that it was once conferred upon courts-martial of the army by Art. 6 of Sec. XIV of the Code of 1776, also upon militia courts by the Act of April 18, 1814, c. 82, s. 4. This view thus expressed was approved by the Secretary of War in a communication to the Comdg. Gen., Dept. of Texas, Oct. 27, 1885, regarding it as his decision that "courts-martial are powerless to punish witnesses for failure to testify."

Watson v. Savings Bk., 5 So. Ca. 159. And see *State v. Garland*, La. An. 533.

Wartman v. Wartman, Taney, 370.

See *Sturrock's Case*, 48 N. H. 432.

See *post*, under "*Purging the contempt*."

may be held to include disorders which, though distu-
proceedings, are not committed in the court-room itse-
Sec. 725, Rev. Sts., which authorizes the infliction by I
of summary punishment for contempts when committ
presence of the court or so near thereto as to obstruct
istration of justice," it has been held that disorderly
or near the entrance of the court-room, or outside but i
or hearing of the court, and so loud or conspicuous a
rupt and embarrass the proceedings, was a contem
similar rule might properly be applied to like distu
military trials.¹

Form of Procedure under the Article. As to t
and form of the exercise by the court of the summary
ferred by the Article, it is first to be remarked tha
warning, call to order, or command to silence, by the
as the organ of the court, at the first symptom of any
manifestation, may often have the effect of preventing
rence of an act of the class which the Article is do
correct.²

As to the procedure when the court finds itself call
avail itself of the discretion to punish—it is clear, as h
been indicated, that no form of trial or investigation is
The act having transpired in the presence, (or in th
hearing, of the court, no evidence is in general neces
form of the circumstances, nor is any introduced in
Opportunity is properly given the offender to present
he may have to offer in excuse or explanation of his la
behaviour,³ but beyond this no formality whatever is

¹ U. S. v. Emerson, 4 Cranch C. 188; U. S. v. Carter.
And see, to a similar effect, in the State courts, State v. Woo-
dard, 10 State v. Goff, Wright, 78; State v. Coulter, Id. 421.

² Any noise close to, or so near the court as to disturb
proceeding is a contempt of court. * * * Sentries should be
required to prevent such a disturbance." Hough, 444.
Black Com 125; Whitten v. State, 36 Ind. 212.

³ See Hough, 444; Acton's case, cited in note *ante*; St
Wright 28.

⁴ The punishment "may be adjudged without the previ-
ous proof of the offence being committed under the eye of the cou-
rt, or being more clearly or satisfactorily proved." Sam

⁵ The court proceeds to punish after such hearing as may
be just and necessary." A. & K. R. R. Co. v. A. R. R. Co.

⁶ And see Fanshawe v. Tracy, 4 Bissell, 497; Wartma-
n v. Patten, 370; Samuel, 634-5; Simmons § 434; O'Brie

proceeding not being a trial, it is wholly unnecessary to the court for the purpose, and it is also quite unnecessary, (though this has sometimes been done,) to have a charge and indication preferred or prepared.' As there is no formal accusation, so there is no arraignment, plea, prosecution, or defence. It is only observed by the court in a case already cited,—"Where contempt is committed in the presence of the court, and the court acts upon view, * * * and inflicts the punishment, there will be no charge, no plea, no issue, no trial." It need only be added that no challenge to the members is appropriate or allowable.

Therefore that is required is, that the court should temporarily discontinue the investigation or other business upon which engaged, and proceed at once or as soon as may be convenient to pass upon the matter of the contempt, as an interlocutory decision. The question is in general initiated by the motion of counsel or the judge advocate, and the court sometimes clears up and considers whether it will take action. The proceeding will consist mainly in the court announcing to the party, through its clerk or agent, that he is held to have committed a contempt within the description of the Article, and that it is proposed to punish him for the same unless explained away, and calling upon him to make any explanation or statement he may have to offer. No action will preferably be taken in open court, as in civil cases.

Proper opportunity for a hearing being afforded, and the party's statement, if any, being made, deliberation is then had, and punishment—a contempt being found—is adjudged. The decision is then publicly announced to the offending party. If the punishment is to be immediately or presently enforced, the punishment declared is without delay reported to the convening authority, or the commander of the post or station if competent to execute

103; Benét, 31. In a case published in G. C. M. O. 37, Fourth Ind. 1868, where the court denied the application of the party to state his statement of his defence to the charge of contempt put on record, the reviewing authority, (Gen. Gillem,) observes:—"He should not have been permitted to make his statement, if pertinent to the case, but should have been allowed a full opportunity to be heard by the court, or by counsel, to show cause, if he could, why he should not be punished for contempt."

the view, as expressed by O'Brien, (p. 152,) that "the court must first make out a distinct charge made out," and repeated by Benét, (p. 103,) clearly founded upon a misapprehension of the legal character of the proceeding.

Whittem v. State, 36 Ind. 211.

it. A full record of the proceeding is at once made by the advocate,¹ not separate from but in and as a part of the record of the trial, showing the occasion and circumstances of the contempt, the words or acts which constituted it, the error or statement, if any, of the party, the action taken by the court in its judgment, the disposition of the offender, &c.

Purging the Contempt—Remission of the Punishment

At the hearing, or before the court-martial has proceeded to judgment upon the contempt, it may, in its discretion, receive an apology for his conduct from the offender, and, if the same is deemed sufficient and satisfactory, may consider him to have "purged" himself of the contempt, and so discontinue the special proceeding.² But, as is observed by the court in a late case,³ "an expression of regret for the contempt committed is always held to be essential to purge the contempt;" a mere "disavowal of improper motive" not being sufficient. Much less, where a disavowal is accompanied by a justification by the party of his conduct; for this, as held in another case,⁴ is an *aggravation* of the contempt.

Where, however, the offence is one of a grave character, an expression of regret, or disclaimer of ill intent, on the part of the offender, though, when offered in good faith, it may, as has been seen, go to reduce the punishment, will not in general be accepted as purging the contempt, or properly relieving the party from the penalty which public policy requires should be forced.⁵

1. That an immediate record should be made, see 2 Hawkins, c. s. 1; State v. Matthews, 37 N. H. 453.

2. See Simmons § 434. In Capt. Burke's case, (Samuel, 635,) the officer "apologized for his conduct," and, "after a slight admonition and reprimand, was discharged of the contempt." In State v. Coul Wright, 427, the court, in accepting the apology of the defendants (officers of a militia company, marched and exercised with loud music in the immediate neighborhood of the court-house,) as purging the contempt, say:—"They disclaim on oath any intention of interrupting the business of the court, or design to condemn its authority. They assert the most perfect respect for the court and their own knowledge that it was holding its session as they approached and passed the court-house. Singular as this state of fact appears, the character of these gentlemen forbids all suspicion that they have not uttered the truth." And see G. O. 79, Dept. of the South, 1874.

3. Watson v. Savings Bk., 5 So. Ca. 159.

4. State v. Garland, 25 La. An. 532.

5. In Sturoc's case, 48 N. H. 428, Perley C. J. says:—"The de-

after a court-martial has passed finally upon a matter of contempt, and imposed a specific punishment therefor, it is not, in the opinion of the author, empowered to remit, in whole or in part, the penalty awarded.¹ The contempt, like any other military offence, is a crime against the United States;² a fine imposed in lieu of punishment accrues to the United States;³ and, as to imprisonment or other punishment, the same, when once duly adjudged according to Art. 86, is, as to the matter of its execution, equally with a sentence imposed by the authority of any other tribunal, beyond the control of the court. The power of remission, therefore, can be exercised only by the military commander authorized thereto by Art. 112,⁴ or by the President.⁵

"(the publisher of a newspaper which had commented improperly on the case,) "cannot discharge himself by alleging that he meant no harm and did not suppose he was doing anything illegal." In *People v. Boughton*, (where the contempt consisted in a personal altercation and exchange of blows between the counsel in open court,) the judge, notwithstanding the regrets expressed by both the offending parties, declined to abate the punishment—twenty-four hours in jail—and adjourned court in order that it might be fully executed.

In a case, already cited, published in G. C. M. O. 36 of 1870, the court, after imposing the punishment of confinement, accepted an apology from the offender and remitted the punishment. Here indeed the contempt adjudged was "during the pleasure of the court." But this mode of punishment, besides being objectionable as indefinite, is regarded as unauthorized since the term of a confinement adjudged for any offence cannot be made to depend upon the will of the court.

U. S. v. Jacobi, Flippin, 108; *In re Mullee*, cited in note *post*.

Fanshawe v. Tracy, 4 Bissell, 498. And see *Matter of Rhodes*, 10 Cal. 518; *Morris v. Whitehead*, Id. 637; also Opins. of At. Gen. in second succeeding note.

Art. 112 authorizes, in general terms, officers ordering courts-martial to "pardon or mitigate any punishment adjudged" by them, and in special penalties only being excepted, which are reserved for action of the President.)

It is held in *In re Mullee*, 7 Blatchford, 24, that, a contempt of a court, being an offence against the United States, the court cannot pardon or discharge the offender from the punishment imposed, but the President, as the pardoning power, can alone do so. And see III Opins. 622; IV Id. 458, where it is held that the pardoning power of the President extends to the remission of fines imposed for contempts of State Courts. And see *State v. Sauvinet*, 24 La. An. 119, as to the authority of a State executive to pardon in cases of contempts of State courts.

A court, however, may *recommend* the remission of the punishment to the proper authority. As was done in a case in G. C. M. O. 52, Dept. 1865, where a witness, who had been punished with confinement for drunkenness in court, appeared the next day and apologized.

CHAPTER XVIII.

EVIDENCE.

Courts-martial, which are bound in general to observe fundamental rules of law and principles of justice observed and expounded by the civil judicature,¹ are also in general to be governed, upon trials, by the *rules of evidence* of the common law, as recognized and followed by the criminal courts of the country. Thus, indeed, it is laid down and repeated by the authorities upon the subject; and inasmuch as the rules of evidence are in all countries the result of the best wisdom and experience of the people, approved and ratified by modern intelligence, it is clear that

1. Tytler, 352; Kennedy, xiii; Prendergast, 208; Maltby, 1 comb, 80.

2. "Courts-martial, having cognizance only of criminal offences, are bound, in general, by the rules of evidence administered in criminal cases in the courts of common law; the only exceptions being those which are of necessity created by the nature of the service, and by the constitution of the court, and its course of proceeding." 3 Greenl. Ev. 476. "As no rules of evidence are specially prescribed by Congress for the observance of courts-martial, it must be deemed that such cases are contemplated to be governed, in general, by the same rules of evidence which govern the ordinary courts of criminal jurisprudence. These rules are supplied by the common law, excepting of course those which are otherwise provided by statute, in which case the latter prevail." Opinion of At. Gen. Brewster, in Whittaker's Case, March 17, 1882. A similar effect, see Grant v. Gould, 2 H. Black. 69, 87; Lebar v. Heath, 47 N. H. 359; People v. Van Allen, 55 N. Y. 39; 11 Opin. At. Gen., 344; 1 McArthur, 47; Warren, 8, 15; Harcourt, 76; Sumner, § 811, 1006; Pison & Col., 138; Hickman, 35; Kennedy, xiii; Griffiths, 65; Prendergast, 206; Maltby, 2; O'Brien, 100; Hart, 334, 405; Benét, 224; G. O. 51, Middle Dept., 1865; Do. 36 Mil. Dist., 1868; G. C. M. O. 60, Dept. of Texas, 1879; Do. Dept. of the East, 1880; DIGEST, 253.

That the rules of evidence are substantially the same in the case as in the civil procedure, see 1 Greenl. Ev. § 65; Wills, 73; U. S. v. Winchester, 2 McLean, 135; Brown v. Schock, 77 Pa. St. 471; 4 of 1843.

tribunals cannot in general safely assume to reject or ignore

But the essence of all military proceedings is summary vigorous action, and, moreover, courts-martial are no part of judiciary of the United States, are not even courts in the full of the term, but are, in peace as well as in war, simply bodies military men ordered to investigate accusations, arrive at facts, where just—recommend a punishment. In the absence, fore, of statutory direction, they can scarcely be held bound to same strict adherence to common-law rules as are the true s of the United States; and, upon trials, they may properly owed to pursue a more liberal course in regard to the admission of testimony and the examination of witnesses than do, ually, the civil tribunals.² Their purpose is to do justice; f the effect of a technical rule is found to be to exclude ~~ma-~~ facts or otherwise obstruct a full investigation, the rule and should be departed from. Proper occasions, however, uch departures will be exceptional and unfrequent.

he subject of this Chapter will be presented under the sep- heads of:—I. Proof in general; II. Admissibility of Evi- e; III. Oral Testimony; IV. Written Testimony.

I. PROOF IN GENERAL.

nder this head will be noticed:—I. What is to be proved; ow much is to be proved; III. What is to be presumed; What is to be judicially taken notice of.

I. WHAT IS TO BE PROVED.

he **Three Facts to be Established.** Upon every crim- trial there are to be established three principal facts, viz.— t the act charged as an offence was really committed; That

As the Court of Claims, for example, which, being *a court of the ed States*, is held to be bound, in the absence of statutory provision e subject, by the common-law rules of evidence. See the instruct- opinion of Bradley J., in Moore v. U. S., 91 U. S. 270.

Grant v. Gould, 2 H. Black. 104; Kennedy, 120; Tullock, 13; Bom- t. 19; Pratt, 198; Lieut. Col. Fremont's Trial, 239-40, 256. "Courts- al had much better err on the side of liberality towards a prisoner by endeavoring to solve nice and technical refinements of the laws fence, assume the risk of injuriously denying him a proper latitude fense." G. C. M. O. 32 of 1872. And, to a similar effect, see G. ., Dept. of Dakota, 1871; Do. 23, Dept. of Texas, 1873; Do. 49, pt. of Cal., 1873; G. C. M. O. 60, Dept. of the Mo., 1874.

the accused committed it; That he committed it with the requisite criminal intent.

Proof of the commission. The *corpus delicti*¹ so-called, the fact that the alleged criminal act was committed—by some one,² is, as a separate fact to be proved, especially illustrated in cases of homicide and larceny, and—at military law—in cases of offences under Arts. 5, 8, 13, 14, 17, 22, 26, 45, 46, 58 and 60. Here the fact that a person has been unlawfully killed, that property has been unlawfully appropriated, that a false return of muster has been made, that arms, clothing, &c., have been so or through neglect lost, &c., that a mutiny has occurred, that a challenge has been sent, that the enemy has been relieved, that a fraudulent claim has been advanced, &c., is a distinct fact to be established independently of the fact of the agency of the accused. In the cases of another class of military offences, as desertion, cowardice, drunkenness on duty, sleeping on post, &c., the agency of the accused is so connected with the act done that the proof of the latter is also proof of the former.

Proof of the agency and identity of the accused. This, as an independent fact, is especially material to be clearly shown where the offence was committed secretly or in the night time, or where the accused was a stranger to the witnesses, or was one of a number of persons associated together or, (by reason of their similar dress or otherwise,) not readily distinguished from each other.³

Proof of the intent. Crime, at common law, is made up of intent and act; the wrongfulness of the intent constituting

1. Proof of this first essential is not done away with by the fact that the accused has confessed the offence. In other words proof of a confession does not prove the *corpus delicti*, but the latter must be independently proved before evidence of the confession can be admitted. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 217; G. O. 234, Fifth Mil. Dist., 1869; Do. 5, 48, Dept. of the Platte, 1871.

2. The term *corpus delicti* is sometimes referred to as including not only the criminal act but also the agency of the accused therein. See Wharton, Cr. Ev. § 325, 633. The definition of the text, (and see 3 Greenl. Ev. § 30.) is, however, preferred.

3. See case in G. O. 1, Dept. of the Platte, 1871, in which the proceedings were disapproved because the proof did not sufficiently connect the accused with the offence.

iminality of the act. To complete the legal crime, an in-
o effect the wrong and an act performed in pursuance of
intent must concur, and without this combination there can
o crime.¹ And if the wrongful intent is present, the wrong-
ct committed is a complete crime, though it may not be the
se act had in view.² Where the intent is shared in by several
ns, as in conspiracy, mutiny, &c., every one who has con-
ted to the intent, and at the same time engaged in the act,
minal.³

respect to the element of *intent*, crimes are distinguished as
rs:—those in which a distinct and specific intent, independ-
f the mere act, is essential to constitute the offence; and
in which the act is the principal feature, the existence of
rongful intent being simply inferable therefrom. Of the
r are murder, larceny, burglary, desertion and mutiny; of
tter arson, rape, perjury, disobedience of orders, drunken-
n duty, neglect of duty.⁴ In cases of the former class the
teristic intent must be established affirmatively as a sepa-
ct; in the latter class of cases it is only necessary to prove
lawful act, for every man is presumed in law to have
ed to do what he actually does, and the burden of proof is
aim to show the contrary.⁵

acts negating intent. Under the head of the Defence,⁶
ve already considered certain facts and conditions, the effect
proof of which is to negative the existence of the element
ongful intent in alleged crime, or to show an incapacity to
ain such intent. These are such as Ignorance or mistake
, Ignorance of law, Drunkenness, Insanity, Compulsion by
ry orders or by hostile force, and Necessity of executing
ry discipline.

subject of the *intent* will be further illustrated in consider-

Greenl. Ev. § 13; 1 Bishop, C. L. § 285-287.

Bishop, C. L. § 327-329.

Bishop, C. L. § 630, 636.

Neglect in the discharge of a duty, or indifference to conse-
s, is in many cases equivalent to a specific criminal intention."

1. Thompson, 8 Sawyer, 122.

Greenl. Ev. § 13, 14.

see Chapter XVII.

ing the specific offences which form the subjects of the different Articles of war.

II. HOW MUCH IS TO BE PROVED.

Reasonable Doubt. In a civil action the plaintiff needs in general but to make out a *prima facie* case, or to offer evidence preponderating over that of the defendant, to give him the verdict or judgment. But the quantity of the proof required (on the part of the prosecution) is considerably greater upon criminal trials, where there exists always in favor of the accused the presumption of innocence—a presumption from which results the familiar rule of criminal evidence that, to authorize a conviction the guilt of the accused must be established *beyond a reasonable doubt*. By “reasonable doubt” is intended not fanciful or ingenious doubt or conjecture, but substantial, honest, conscientious doubt suggested by the material evidence in the case. The meaning of the rule is that the proof must be such as to exclude every hypothesis or possibility of innocence, but any fair and rational hypothesis except that of guilt; what is required is not an absolute or mathematical but a “moral certainty.” A court which acquits because, upon the evidence, the accused *possibly* be innocent falls as far short of appreciating the proper *quantum* of proof required in a criminal trial, as does a court which convicts because the accused is *probably* guilty. However convincing the testimony, it is always possible that the accused may be innocent: on the other hand, though the prob-

1. 3 Greenl. Ev. § 29; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 1093, 1094; Wharton, Cr. Ev. § 1; Wills, Cir. Ev., 157; U. S. v. Douglass, 2 Blatchford, 211; U. S. v. Gleason, Woolworth, 128; U. S. v. Carr, 1 Woods, 486; U. S. v. Babcock, 3 Dillon, 621; Com. v. Webster, 5 Cush. 320; Com. v. Conley, 118 Mass. 21; Com. v. Drum, 58 Pa. St. 22; Meyer v. Com., 83 Pa. 131; Com. v. Carey, 2 Brewst. 304; G. O. 27, Army of the Potomac, 1864; Do. 46, Dept. of the Mo., 1864; G. M. C. O. 67, Dept. of Cal., 1883; Manual, 71 § 42.

In U. S. v. Babcock, (p. 621-2,) Dillon J. observes:—“The defendant, by the policy of our law, can neither be compelled nor permitted to testify. As a substitute for this deprivation, the law clothes the defendant with a presumption of innocence which attends and protects him until it is overcome by testimony which proves his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.” This was said in 1876. *Quare*, whether the presumption of innocence is any the less, or stronger evidence is required to justify reasonable doubt, when the accused takes the stand as a witness under the Act of March 16, 1878.

ies may favor his guilt, a material and sensible doubt of the
: may exist of which he is entitled to the benefit.

is to be observed that the general rule indicated applies alike
ch of the three main facts to be established upon a trial—
corpus delicti, the identity of the accused with the real
der, and the requisite criminal *animus*. Each must be
ed beyond a reasonable doubt.¹ The rule is equally applica-
o military as to civil prosecutions.²

III. WHAT IS TO BE PRESUMED.

Presumption in General—Kinds of Presumption. It
served by Bishop³ that the whole law of evidence rests upon
ptions, and it has been said by Wills⁴ of *proof* itself that
"nothing more than a presumption of the highest order."
esumptions are most simply divided into *presumptions of law*
presumptions of fact.

Presumptions of law. These are general propositions es-
shed by the law, which are accepted without evidence by the
s as being either "absolutely" or *prima facie* true, and are
distinguished as "conclusive" and "disputable."⁵ *Conclu-*
presumptions are inferences of the law in regard to which,
is expressed by Greenleaf,⁶ "all corroborating evidence is
used with and all opposing evidence is forbidden." Of these
of the most familiar is, that every sane person, who is a free
:, is "conclusively presumed to contemplate the natural and
ible consequences of his own acts."⁷ So, according to the

"It is incumbent on the Government to prove beyond reasonable
the truth of every fact in the indictment necessary in point of law
stitute the offence." Curtis J., in *U. S. v. McGlue*, 1 Curtis, 2.

Courts-martial, being, as criminal courts, bound by the rules of
ial evidence, "ought not to convict the prisoner until all reasona-
bly of his guilt is removed; allowing the presumption of innocence,
cases, to operate in his favor." 3 Greenl. Ev. § 469.

1 C. P. § 1096.

"Circumstantial Evidence," p. 32.

1 Greenl. Ev. 14. Some later writers do not approve this distinction,
: ground that few if any presumptions can be said to be absolutely
sive. See the subject discussed in Wharton, Cr. Ev., Ch. XIV;
Bishop, C. P. § 1099, 1100.

1 Greenl. Ev. § 15.

Greenl. Ev. § 18; 3 Id. § 14. "The law makes a man answerable
in the unexpected consequences of his crimes; and for this pur-

earlier authorities, an infant under seven years is "conclusively presumed incapable" of committing a felony.¹ There is the conclusive presumption in favor of judicial proceedings, the records of courts of justice have been correctly made. Among *disputable* presumptions, (where the inference, though more or less strong, is not absolute but may be overcome by counter evidence,) are—the presumption in favor of the innocence of every person accused of crime;² the presumption in favor of the sanity of persons in general, and, on the other hand, the presumption that unsoundness of mind, (not accidental or temporary, as upon disease or drunkenness,) proved to have existed at a previous date, has continued;³ the presumption of ownership arising from the open possession of property;⁴ the presumption as to public officers, that they are legally in office, and that they properly perform their duties⁵—presumptions especially applicable to the military service.⁷

pose imputes the intention to produce the consequence as well as the original act." *State v. Cooper*, 1 Greenl. 361. But see 1 Bishop, § 1100.

1. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 28; 3 Id. § 4.

2. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 19.

3. Warren, (p. 19,) says of this presumption: "It alone can stand against first impressions, prepossessions and prejudices."

A further presumption may here be noted—that in favor of the character of a witness till impeached. *Johnson v. State*, 21 Ind. 329.

4. Greenleaf, (1 Ev. § 42,) cites these two presumptions as illustrations of the more general one, that—"The opinions of individuals entertained and expressed, and the state of mind once proved to be, are presumed to remain unchanged until the contrary appears." *Sleeper v. Van Middlesworth*, 4 Denio, 431, the court designates the presumption as one "against any sudden change in the moral, as well as the mental and social, condition of man."

5. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 34.

6. It is "a presumption that one who publicly performs official duties holds the office in fact; and no record or other like proof of appointment is, in the first instance, required. * * * Officials are presumed to have done their duty." 1 Bishop, C. P. § 1131. And see 1 Greenl. Ev. § 40, 83, 92, 195, 207.

There are also the presumptions, founded upon the course of official public business, that certain results will follow if certain conditions are complied with. Thus if a letter is shown to have been deposited prepaid and properly addressed in the post office, it may be presumed in the absence of rebutting evidence, that it reached its destination. In *U. S. v. Babcock*, 3 Dillon, 571, the court applied the same rule to telegraphic dispatches.

7. Thus, on the trial of an officer or soldier, it is not necessary

ptions of fact. These are simply inferences as to the existence of a fact derived from some other fact or facts, instead of being deduced by the law but by the human reason. Varying the circumstances of every case, they are not peculiar to legal investigations, but illustrate the ordinary operations of the mind in arriving at conclusions in general. Applied to legal cases, they are inferences as to the fact of the guilt of the accused deduced from minor facts and circumstances, physical and moral. They do not constitute or extend legal principles, but "are in truth but mere arguments which the major premise is not a rule of law."¹

Story and exculpatory presumptions. Of this class are the "*inculpatory*" presumptions, derived from collateral facts and declarations indicating a motive for crime, admissions for the commission of crime, from failure to satisfactorily explain suspicious appearances, from acts prohibiting a criminal consciousness, (as concealment, flight,) from the suppression, destruction, simulation, or concealment of evidence, from attempts to prevent a fair trial, efforts to suborn or bribe witnesses, &c.,²) as well as numerous *physical* circumstances—such as impressions on clothes, blood on garments, possession of weapons or instruments unlikely to have been used in the commission of the crime, possession of property recently in the possession of the accused in the larceny, violence, &c.—which go to identify an individual as the guilty party. Of this class also are various presumptions similarly deduced but of an "*exculpatory*" character.

to prove the official character or rank, of the accused to produce the enlistment paper, or prove the formal enlistment of the soldier. It is sufficient to show that the officer has publicly been recognized as such, and that the soldier has received pay for military service as such. 3 Greenl. Ev. § 483; *Lebanon v. Heath*, 39; *O'Brien*, 171. The rule of presumption of due appointment from the exercise of the office "would appear to apply with more force to military than to civil officers." *Jones v. Johnson*, 260.

Ev. § 44. And see *Id.* § 48.

An unsuccessful attempt to establish an *alibi* has sometimes been held to create an inculpatory presumption against an accused; but probably such a failure should no more give rise to an presumption than a failure to make out any other defence. *People*, 39 Ills. 457.

Such are—the absence of apparent motive to commit the crime, the presence of a strong motive not to commit it, the fact of previous exemplary character, or of conduct and deportment, apparently reconcilable with guilt, the appearance of malice or falsehood on the part of the prosecuting witness, &c.¹

Presumptions and “circumstantial” evidence.

above are some of the presumptions of fact, which, in every criminal case not established by direct testimony, come (for they rarely arise separately,) to induce the conclusion of guilt or the reverse. And it is the various grounds of these presumptions, such as have been specified, which mainly constitute the material of *Circumstantial* as opposed to *Direct* evidence; the latter being the evidence, (comparatively rarely available in criminal trials,) of witnesses who testify from personal knowledge derived from the senses, as from seeing or hearing the former the evidence furnished by the great variety of facts, circumstances and indications connected with or related to the principal fact of the crime committed, and affording presumptions, more or less strong or weak, of the guilt or innocence of the accused.²

IV. WHAT IS TO BE JUDICIALLY TAKEN NOTICE OF.

We find further, in entering upon the subject of evidence, many facts of a conspicuous, general, or public character, which so authenticate themselves in law that the courts take judicial notice of their existence as matters of course, and which are required either to be charged or proved. These, which have already been referred to in the Chapter on the Charge,³ are such as—The laws of nations and of war, the provisions of the Constitution, public statutes and executive proclamations, the system and framework of the Government, the powers of the President and of the heads of the executive departments, matters of public history, the geographical features of the country, situation of military departments, posts, &c. Military courts also accept as authentic, without proof of their authority, published “general” orders, circulars, and usually “speci-

1. See Wills, Ch. III, IV and V.

2. See 1 Greenl. Ev. § 13; Wills, 15, 16.

3. See Chapter X.

orders, emanating from the War Department or Headquarters of the Army, or from the headquarters of the different military divisions and departments of the army.¹ So, regimental or garrison courts will properly take judicial notice of the formal published orders of the commander of the regiment or post. Facts within the common observation and knowledge of men will also be judicially taken notice of by military equally as by civil trials.²

II. ADMISSIBILITY OF EVIDENCE.

This subject will be considered under the following heads:—General rules governing the admission of testimony; II. Hearsay; III. Confessions; IV. Evidence excluded from consideration as of public policy.

GENERAL RULES GOVERNING THE ADMISSION OF TESTIMONY.

The Three Principal Rules. These, (which are the more fully illustrated by the testimony on the part of the *prosecution*), may be stated as follows: I. The evidence must be relevant; The burden of proof of guilt is always on the government; The best evidence must be produced of which the case is susceptible.

1. The evidence must be relevant. The testimony offered by the *prosecution*, whether oral or written, must be relevant, that is to say must be apposite to the material averments of the indictment or charge and be such as to establish or tend to establish the commission of the offence alleged; otherwise, it may be objected to as "irrelevant" or "immaterial," and, upon such objection, will, in general, properly not be admitted by the court.³ The

¹ See G. O. 121, Second Mil. Dist., 1867. A *civil* court, however, does not take judicial notice, without proof, of the orders issued by a military department commander. *Burke v. Miltenberger*, 19 Wallace, 519.

² It is not necessary to prove facts which the jury may be presumed to know as well as any witness, or which are "within the ordinary observation of all men." *Kraus v. R. R. Co.*, 55 Iowa, 338-9.

³ It need hardly be remarked that the exclusive authority to decide upon the relevancy of testimony, whether objected to by a party or by the court, rests with the Court. A witness, of whatever rank, on a military trial, has no authority to pass upon the relevancy or competency of his own evidence. In G. O. 1, Dept. of the South, 1869, General Meade, in disapproving certain proceedings of a court-martial, com-

testimony, to be admissible, need not indeed *directly* or *immediately* sustain the charge provided it merely "constitutes a link in the chain of proof;" and evidence offered which is seen to be irrelevant and is objected to as such may yet be admitted by the court, if persuaded by the representations of the party offering it that it will be rendered relevant by other testimony to be subsequently introduced.²

To be relevant, the evidence must be confined to the issue in the case: evidence as to the commission or attempted commission by the accused, at another time, of an offence quite independent of and distinct from that charged, though of the same sort, is in general irrelevant and inadmissible.³ Where, however, two or more criminal acts or attempts have been committed by the accused at the same time, or as parts of the same transaction, or system, evidence in regard to the one may be relevant as illustrating the commission of the other.⁴ So, evidence of collateral facts—as declarations or acts of the accused, or an accomplice, made or done before, or even after, the commission of the offence charged—may sometimes be relevant and admissible as tending to prove *intent* or *guilty knowledge*.⁵

But though evidence, to be admissible, must tend to prove the issue, yet, except as to matters of essential description, it is

ments as follows:—"The court, on the application of the defence, directed a witness" (an officer) "for the prosecution to produce a copy of a certain paper, which he refused to do on the ground that it was the business of the defence to produce the original. The witness thus assumed the functions of the court in deciding upon the relevancy of the evidence, and his refusal was disrespectful and a grave breach of discipline."

1. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 51 *a*; Thompson *v.* Bowie, 4 Wallace, 471.

2. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 51 *a*; U. S. *v.* Flowery, 1 Sprague, 109; G. O. 41, Dept. of the Platte, 1870. Such evidence is sometimes admitted, "subject to the proof to be given hereafter;" that is to say subject to be accepted and retained, or rejected, in the end, according as subsequent testimony may or may not show it to be relevant. See Kelly *v.* Crawford, 5 Wallace, 790.

3. The purpose of such testimony, as generally offered, *viz.* to raise an *inference* that the accused committed the similar act charged in the indictment, cannot be recognized as legitimate. See People *v.* Jones, 31 Cal. 565.

4. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 52, 53; Wharton, Cr. Ev. § 32, 38, 49; Wills, 44; Manual, 65 § 21. The collateral offence must form "a link in the chain of circumstances or proof relied upon for conviction." Swan *v.* Com., 104 Pa. St. 218.

5. Manual, 66 § 22-25.

ant and sufficient if it supports only *substantially* the allegations of the charge.¹ Mere surplusage in the charge need not be noticed in the proof, and averments which are formal merely immaterial need not be proved as laid. Thus the formal averment in an indictment for homicide, that the killing was done with a particular weapon, need not be verified by the evidence, it will be enough to show that any other deadly weapon was employed.² So of the allegations of time, place, quantity, quality and value—the rule as to relevancy does not require strictness;³ and this especially in military cases in view of the authority of courts-martial to except and substitute in their findings.

As to time and place in military specifications, while these sometimes require to be more precisely distinguished—as where a series of distinct offences of the same class are alleged to have been committed on separate days—it is in general sufficient if the time be shown to have been within the legal period of limitation,⁴ and the place within the jurisdiction of the court, is to say within the United States.

The rule as to relevancy applies also to the *defence*. Whether testimony on the part of the accused is or not relevant must be determined by the nature of the defence in each case. In a military case, not only is such testimony relevant as goes to the merits of the particular defence, but also such as may establish the character or avail to extenuate the punishment in case of conviction.

The burden of proof of guilt is always on the prosecution. It is a general rule of evidence that “the obligation of proving any fact lies upon the party who substantially asserts the negative of the issue.”⁵ And upon a criminal trial, where the accused stands at the threshold the presumption of the innocence of the accused, and the affirmative of the issue is thus necessarily required by the Government, the burden is imposed upon the prosecution of proving the existence of every material fact required to establish the offence charged. The *onus probandi* is

¹ Greenl. Ev. § 56, 63.

² Greenl. Ev. § 59.

³ Greenl. Ev. § 61.

⁴ As to the rule in civil prosecutions, see *McBryde v. State*, 34 Ark. 13.

⁵ Greenl. Ev. § 74.

not always confined to the proof of a proposition affirmative form. The gist of the offence may be a criminal neglect here the prosecution is called upon to prove a negative. more frequently occurs in military than in civil cases, several of the Articles of war making punishable in terms the not doing of some duty incidental to the military status, or the doing of some act without the authority of the proper superior. Of the other of these negative elements may be perceived in offences designated in Arts. 7, 15, 16, 17, 23, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 40, 69; but it is the general charge laid under Art. 62, of "neglect of duty to the prejudice of good order and military discipline" that most conspicuously illustrates the frequency of the obligation to prove a negative which is imposed upon the government in military cases. Yet the negative here is really but an affirmative in another form.

The burden of proof of guilt never shifts from the side of the prosecution. The accused may indeed admit the commission by him of the act charged, claiming that it did not constitute an offence on his part because of the existence of a certain fact which he sets up as a defence. Asserting this defence the burden is upon him to maintain it. But the onus of proving *guilt* remains with the State, and if the accused so far makes out his defence as to involve the main issue in a reasonable doubt, the prosecution must dispel this doubt by further evidence, in order to obtain a conviction.²

3. The best evidence must be produced of which the case is susceptible. The rule that proof is to be made by the highest existing evidence is one of *quality* not of *quantity*.³ It does not require that the greatest amount of evidence should be accumulated for the proof of any fact, but only that every allegation should be established by the best, that is to say most authoritative and legally satisfactory, evidence of which the case is capable. But again the rule does not mean that indirect or circumstantial evidence, or evidence of less strength, is to be rejected where direct evidence or evidence of greater strength exists and may be produced; for indirect, weak, or imperfect

1. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 80.

2. See, in this connection, 1 Bishop, C. P. § 1050, 1051.

3. See Manual, 71 § 41; Id. 73 § 44.

ce is equally admissible in law with direct, strong, or full ce, provided only it be relevant. What is meant is that, the evidence actually offered indicates of itself the existence of higher evidence for which it is clearly only a substitute, and constitutional evidence is incompetent and not to be admitted except to that effect.

The familiar application of the principle is to cases in which direct evidence or other *written* evidence exists of a material fact which is attempted, in the course of the trial, to be established by oral testimony. Where such testimony, as offered, discloses the fact of the existence of the written proof which the law regards as of higher quality, (or where such fact has been disclosed in the pleadings or by previous testimony,) the secondary evidence may be objected to, and, upon objection, will properly be excluded.¹ Thus, in proving a charge of perjury or false swearing, committed at a military trial, the record of the trial is clearly the best evidence of the testimony given by the accused, and parol evidence of the same, unless introduced by consent, will be inadmissible.² The rule excluding the oral testimony in such cases is adopted not only because the writing must necessarily afford the most satisfactory evidence of the facts which it sets forth, but also, as Greenleaf observes, "for the prevention of fraud;" since, he adds, "whenever it is apparent that better evidence is withheld, it is fair to presume that the party has some sinister motive in not producing it, and that, if offered, his design will be frustrated. The rule thus becomes essential to the pure administration of justice."³

1. "The rule of law is that the best evidence must be given of which the nature of the thing is capable; that is, that no evidence shall be received which presupposes greater evidence behind, in the party's position or power." Marshall, C. J., in *Taylor v. Riggs*, 1 Peters, 596; Greenl. Ev. § 82, 84; Manual, 68 § 30. The two sorts of evidence so related are sometimes termed "primary" and "secondary." Even in secondary evidence is obliged to be furnished, it must be the best party has it in his power to produce under the circumstances. Corcoran v. Williams, 20 Wallace, 226.

That written *post orders* are not properly provable by parol, if it is practicable to produce them, see G. O. 60, Third Mil. Dist., 1867; Do. Dept. of the South, 1869.

See recent case in G. C. M. O. 93, Dept. of the East, 1884.

1 Evidence § 82. And see U. S. v. Reyburn, 6 Peters, 367; Manual § 30. "The withholding of the better evidence raises a presump-

But it may happen that oral testimony may be the original and best evidence as to a fact or facts when a statement of the same exists in writing. Thus where certain facts within the knowledge of the writer, and material to the issue in a case on trial, have been *recited* in an official endorsement, certificate, communication, or other writing, the primary and best evidence of such facts will be not the writing but the personal statement under oath and subject to cross-examination, of the writer, and if he can be obtained as a witness, the written statement should not be received.¹

Exceptions. To the general rule, however, there are certain exceptions, growing out of considerations of public policy and convenience, or out of the necessities or peculiar circumstances of the case. Thus public records and documents may be proved by *copy*, as will be hereafter indicated. A further exception has been admitted where the charge is to be proved out of voluminous or complicated accounts or similar documents, the introduction and inspection of which in court must be attended with great inconvenience, or entail unreasonable delay. Here an accountant or other competent person who has made the proper examination may be introduced to testify to the contents of the writings,² and schedules prepared and verified by him may also be admitted.³

Lost or destroyed writing. An occasion for the substitution of secondary evidence is also presented where a material

tion that, if produced, it might not operate in his favor." Tayloe v. Riggs, *ante*.

It is the duty of the court to see that the *best evidence* is procured practicable, and where a witness, having important and material papers in his possession, refuses to appear and produce them, the court will properly call upon the judge advocate to *attach* him if necessary. See G. C. M. O. 32, Dept. of the Columbia, 1882.

1. See G. O. 28, Dept. of the South, 1864; Do. 39, Dept. of the South, 1864; Do. 45, Dept. of the East, 1872.

2. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 93.

3. R. R. Co. v. Dana, 1 Gray, 83. Greenleaf, (vol. 1 § 94.) adds: "Under this head may be mentioned the case of inscriptions, on walls and fixed tables, mural monuments, gravestones, surveyors' marks on boundary trees, &c., which, as they cannot conveniently be produced in Court, may be proved by secondary evidence." Otherwise, when a thing of this nature can be conveniently brought into court; as a *pro notice*, not affixed to the freehold but merely hung up in an office. Jones v. Tarlton, 1 Dow. P. C. (N. S.) 625.

g has been *lost* or *destroyed*.¹ A party proposing to prove secondary evidence a writing which has been *lost*, must first offer some evidence that a paper of the character has been lost, and that a "*bona fide* and diligent search has been unsuccessfully made for it in the place where it was most likely to be found, if the nature of the case admits of such proof."² If the paper was lost out of the party's own custody, his testimony as to the fact and circumstances of the loss may be received in evidence,³ or he may be allowed to be sworn to the fact in court.⁴ Where the paper has been *destroyed*, the fact of its previous existence and of the circumstances of its destruction must be shown,—(and the affidavit, or statement on oath before the court, of the party, is admissible, if the facts rest in his knowledge alone,)—before secondary evidence of its contents becomes competent.⁵

per in adverse possession—Notice to produce. A case in which secondary testimony as to a writing may

'Secondary evidence of the contents of written instruments is admissible wherever it appears that the original is destroyed or lost, by fire, without any fault of the party.'" *Remer v. Bk. of Columbia*, 581. And see *U. S. Reyburn*, 6 Peters, 365; *U. S. v. 12 Peters*, 1; *Williams v. U. S.*, 1 Howard, 290. In *U. S. v. Lyon*, 12 C. 309, the court refused to receive parol evidence of the contents of a written *challenge*, in the absence of evidence that the same had been lost or destroyed.

Greenl. Ev. § 558. Slight evidence of the previous *existence* of the original is sufficient. *Id.* § 349, 558. "It seems that in general the party is expected to show that he has in good faith exhausted, in a reasonable degree, all the sources of information and means of discovery of the nature of the case would naturally suggest and which were accessible to him." *Id.* § 558. And see *Kelsey v. Hanmer*, 18 Conn. 108; *Foster v. McKay*, 7 Met. 531.

Greenl. Ev., 349, 558; *Foster v. McKay*, *ante*; *Allen v. Blunt*, 2 Cranch C. 121; *Maye v. Carberry*, 2 Cranch C. 336.

Rich v. Bogue, 19 Conn. 285; *Vedder v. Wilkins*, 5 Denio, 64. A statement of the accused, when thus presented, is not in the nature of testimony of a witness to the merits of the case, but formal and necessary merely and addressed to the discretion of the court,—as in the case of the swearing by a party to his having given notice to proper officers, (see *post*,) or to an affidavit for a continuance to procure testimony.

See authorities cited in the two preceding notes; also *Pillow's Case, of Inquiry*, p. 30-31. Upon the waiver of the opposite party, a parol statement of a party as to the fact of loss or destruction, (unsworn by his oath,) may be accepted by the court, in its discretion, as sufficient.

be introduced. In lieu of the writing itself is presented where the paper or document desired to be put in evidence is *in the possession or under the control of the adverse party*.¹ For the admission of such testimony a foundation must be laid, by the party proposing to avail himself of the evidence, by a showing on his part that he has done all that the law requires of him to induce the production of the original. What the law requires is, that he shall first give a notice to the adverse party, (or his attorney,) to produce the original in court, to be admitted and used in evidence.² The notice should generally be in writing, and should clearly describe the paper or document called for so that it can not be mistaken.³ It should ordinarily be served, if practicable before the trial, so that there may be ample opportunity for complying with it;⁴ if the occasion, however, for using the evidence does not arise till during the progress of the trial, the notice may be served at that time, and, unless required by the adverse party to be in writing, may be given verbally in the presence of the court.⁵

The proper time for calling for the *production* of writings,

1. "If papers are in the possession of the opposite party, due notice for their production should be given; after which, if not produced, secondary evidence may be given of their contents." Simmons § 1035.

2. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 560, 562; U. S. v. Winchester, 2 McLean, 135; Allen v. Blunt, 2 Wood. & Minot, 121; Maye v. Carberry, 2 Cranch C. 336; Underwood v. Huddleston, Id. 76. The party must not only give notice to produce, but must prove the existence of the original, and must show that the instrument is in the hands or power of the opposite party. That it is so, "very slight evidence will raise a sufficient presumption, where the instrument belongs to him, or has been or should regularly be in his possession, or in that of his agent or other person in private with him." 1 Greenl. Ev. § 560, note.

The fact that the adverse party or his attorney actually has the paper in court does not dispense with the usual notice. See 1 Greenl. Ev. § 561, note.

3. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 562; Rogers v. Custance, 2 M. & Rob. 179; Jackson v. Lee, Id. 33.

4. See 1 Greenl. Ev. § 562; Choteau v. Raitt, 20 Ohio, 132; Emerson v. Fisk, 6 Greenl. 200.

5. See Smith v. Young, 1 Campb. 440. A voluntary offer by the adverse party to produce the paper is a waiver of notice. Dwinell v. Larabee, 38 Maine, 464.

If it becomes necessary to *prove* the fact that notice was given, it may be done by the affidavit, or statement in court under oath, of the party, or of his counsel or other person through whom it was communicated or served.

ce which notice has been given, is held to be—"not until party who requires them has entered upon his case."¹ It has been held by a United States Court that books and papers produced under notice must be allowed to be used by the party on the other side *unconditionally*; else parol evidence of their contents may be given.²

II. HEARSAY.

Rule of Exclusion. Intimately connected with the rule last considered, requiring the production of the "best evidence," is the rule which excludes the species of secondary evidence known as hearsay. "The term 'hearsay,'" says Greenleaf,³ "is used with reference to that which is written as well as to that which is spoken; and, in its legal sense, it denotes that kind of evidence which does not derive its value solely from the credit to be given to the witness himself, but rests also, in part, on the veracity and competency of some other person." Such evidence, in the words of Chief Justice Marshall,⁴ "is incompetent to establish any fact which is in its nature susceptible of being proved by witnesses who speak from their own knowledge." This kind of evidence is uniformly held inadmissible, not only on account of its intrinsic uncertainty growing out of the fact that it consists of matter repeated at second hand at least, as well as because it obscures the existence of better testimony and because it may serve as a cover to fraud and perjury, but especially because it introduces into the case statements the truth of which cannot be tested by the criterion of cross-examination.⁵

"Until which time the other party may refuse to produce them, and cross-examination as to their contents is usually permitted." 1 Greenl. § 63. It may be noted here that it is held that, after notice and refusal to produce a paper, and secondary evidence thereupon given of its contents, the adverse party cannot be permitted to produce it in evidence in his own case. *Doe v. Hodgson*, 12 Ad. & El. 135.

Barrr v. Gale, 3 Wood. & Minot, 38.

Evidence § 99. And see Manual, 73 § 46, 77 § 59.

Green v. Hepburn, 7 Cranch, 295.

In *Merritt v. Mayor*, 5 Cold. 95, it was remarked by the court that—"declarations and conversations of *military officers* are not exempted from the common rules of evidence, but are mere hearsay and excluded from the evidence of ordinary citizens." Otherwise, of course, where they are the *res gestæ*. See *post*. The introduction of mere hearsay evidence by courts-martial has been repeatedly disapproved by reviewing courts.

See instances in G. O. 118, Dept. of the East, 1870; Do. 34, Dept. of Dakota, 1874.

Hearsay Distinguished from Original Testimony is to be noticed that the statements of a third person are always hearsay, but may constitute original facts, as are admissible as any other original testimony. Thus where a question at issue in the case is whether certain words were actually spoken (or written) by a person other than the witness, or whether a certain confession or admission was made by such person, the recital by the witness of the words or terms employed, is original testimony and an objection to its admission should be overruled. So, in a military case, where the question is whether a certain order of a superior which the accused is charged with disobeying was actually given, a witness other than such superior may be admitted to testify as to the facts and terms of the order.¹

Res Gestæ. Other declarations of third persons which are admitted in evidence as being not hearsay but original testimony are those which fall within the class of the "*res gestæ*," as a legal phrase is. By the *res gestæ* is meant the circumstances contemporaneous with the principal fact at issue, or so nearly contemporaneous with it as to constitute a part of the same general transaction, which explain and elucidate such fact by indicating its nature, motive, purpose, &c.² Such are the declarations and conduct of the accused in connection with the commission of the crime charged and indicating his intention and knowledge; declarations of the party injured as to the fact of violence committed; language of accomplices; cries of bystanders in concert with the accused or party assailed by him; declarations of *agents* in regard to pending transactions, &c. Of circumstances admissible in evidence as of the nature of *gestæ* are the words and acts of third persons—seconds for example—which go to indicate whether a certain communication

1. So, where the question is, whether the party acted prudently, wisely or in good faith, the information on which he acted, whether true or false, is original evidence. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 101. The rule, it may be seen here, "does not exclude evidence as to statements made in the presence of the prisoner." Manual, 74 § 48.

2. *Beaver v. Taylor*, 1 Wallace, 642; *U. S. v. Roudenbush*, Bald 514; *State v. Keene*, 50 Mo. 357; *Blount v. State*, 49 Ala. 381; *State v. State*, 44 Miss. 731; *Wharton*, Cr. Ev. § 263. Declarations of third persons in evidence as *res gestæ* must be shown to be voluntary and spontaneous and made so near in time to the principal transaction as to preclude the idea of deliberate design. *People v. Vernon*, 35 Cal. 49.

enge to fight a duel, or an acceptance of a challenge, in tion of the 26th Article of war.

Exception to Rule excluding Hearsay—Dying declarations in cases of homicide. Under indictments for murder manslaughter, the law recognizes an exception to the rule excluding hearsay, by allowing the dying declarations of the victim of the crime, in regard to the circumstances which have induced his present condition, and especially as to the person by whom the violence was committed, to be detailed in evidence by one who has heard them.¹ It is necessary, however, to the competency of testimony of this character that the person whose declarations are repeated by the witness should have been *in extremis* under a sense of impending death, *i. e.* in the belief that he was about or soon to die;² but it is not necessary that he should himself state that he speaks under this impression provided the fact is otherwise shown.³ And if this belief on his part sufficiently appears, it is not essential to the admissibility of his words that death should have immediately followed upon them.⁴ On the other hand if, in uttering the words, he was under the impression that he should recover, the same would be inadmissible even if in fact he presently died.⁵ But it is no objection to their admissibility that they were brought out in answer to leading questions,⁶ or upon urgent solicitations addressed to him by any one or persons;⁷ and if, instead of speaking, he answered the

"As the testimony of an accomplice is admissible against his fellow, the dying declarations of a *particeps criminis* in an act which resulted in his own death are admissible against one indicted for the same crime." 1 Greenl. Ev. § 157. So, the dying declarations of a third person, mortally wounded by the same shot that killed the deceased, are admissible in evidence against the person charged with the homicide in the latter." *State v. Wilson*, 23 La. An. 558.

"The persons whose declarations are thus admitted are considered standing in the same situation as if they were sworn; the danger of impending death being equivalent to the sanction of an oath." 1 Greenl. Ev. § 157.

Greenl. Ev. § 158; *People v. Sanchez*, 24 Cal. 17; *Wills v. State*, 114 Ala. 21.

- See *Rakes v. People*, 2 Neb. 157.

See 1 Greenl. Ev. § 158.

The statement, as to its admissibility, is to be governed by the same rules as other testimony, except only that it may be elicited by leading questions. *People v. Sanchez*, 24 Cal. 17.

1 Greenl. Ev. § 161 *a*; *Vass' Case*, 3 Leigh, 852.

questions by intelligible signs, these signs may equally be testified to.¹ But it is held that only such declarations are admissible as would be admitted if the party were himself a witness; that where the language employed is irrelevant or consists in statement of *opinion* instead of fact, it cannot be received.² Nor can it be received unless complete in itself; as where the declaration is left incomplete and uncertain because interrupted by death. If it was put in writing at the time, the writing should be produced.⁴

It is to be remarked that evidence of dying declarations, made as such usually are under circumstances of mental and physical depreciation, and without being subjected to the ordinary legal tests, is generally to be received with great caution.⁵

III. CONFESSIONS.⁶

Different Kinds of Confession. Confessions are said to be *judicial* or *extrajudicial*. The former are those made in court, by the plea of guilty; the latter are all those which are made elsewhere than in court. They are also *express*, as when made by the accused in specific terms either orally or in writing; or *implied*, as where they are deduced from his silent acquiescence in statements in regard to his alleged offence, made in his presence by others, when there is nothing to prevent his contradicting, qualifying

1. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 161 *b*; Com. v. Casey, 11 Cush. 417.

2. Binns v. State, 46 Ind. 311; State v. Quick, 15 Rich. 342; U. S. v. Veitch, 1 Cranch C. 115; 1 Greenl. Ev. § 159.

3. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 161 *a*; Vass' Case, 3 Leigh, 786.

4. As being the "best evidence." State v. Cameron, 2 Chand. 172.

5. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 162; Manual, 74 § 49. In *Murphy v. State*, 11 Ills. 447, the dying person was under the influence of morphine and had to be aroused to get his statement out. In *People v. Knapp*, Edmonds, 177, it is noticed that the evidence is especially unsatisfactory where it appears that the deceased was a person of bad character who might, in making his declaration, have charged the accused with the crime through motives of hostility and revenge.

6. The subject of Admissions, as distinguished from that of Confessions, pertains rather to civil suits than to criminal proceedings. It is enough to note here that all facts admitted by either party, or obviously assumed on the trial, are to be regarded as being as much in the case as if they had been expressly proved. See *Kennedy*, 172; *Paige v. Zackerly*, 36 Barb. 392.

ing, or otherwise replying to, such statements.¹ But of course evidence of such acquiescence must be very clear and positive assign to it the efficacy of a confession.²

Admissibility of Confessions. As to the requisites to the admission in evidence of *extrajudicial* confessions—it has been held, in the first place, that a confession cannot be admitted in evidence till the *corpus delicti*—the fact that the alleged criminal *did* was in fact committed, by somebody—is proved.³

In the second place, it is held that a confession, to be admitted, must be offered in its *entirety*, so that the whole may be taken together, and the complete purport may fully appear. If a material part is withheld the part offered should not be admitted.⁴ A defence advocate upon a military trial may desire to keep out of sight a portion of a confession because it implicates parties other than the accused; but this is a reason not recognized as sufficient in law since a confession is not evidence against any person (not an accomplice) other than the one who makes it.⁵ The judge or advocate may prefer not to discover a certain portion of the confession, on the ground that it is erroneous or unsatisfactory; but this is also not a sufficient reason, since he is at liberty to contradict such portion by other evidence. He must, therefore, unless objection is waived, introduce the entire confession or wholly withhold it.

But the most familiar requisite to the admissibility of a confession is that it must have been *voluntary*;⁶ and the *onus* to show

1. See 1 Greenl. Ev. § 215; Wharton, Cr. Ev. § 680; Kelley v. People, 55 N. Y. 565; G. O. 48, Dept. of the Platte, 1871.

2. The mere fact, for example, that the accused remains silent *when questioned* as to the offence committed, is not to be regarded as equivalent to a confession in law. See Campbell v. State, 55 Ala. 80; DIGEST, 8. In Marvin v. Dutcher, 26 Min. 391, it is held that where it is not the *duty* of a person to speak as to the existence of an alleged fact, his silence cannot be taken as an admission against him.

3. See *ante*—"What is to be proved."

4. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 217; U. S. v. Wilson, Baldwin, 78. G. O. 48, Dept. of the Platte, 1871. "If a confession is given in evidence, the whole of it must be given, and not merely the parts disadvantageous to the accused person." Manual, 81 § 80.

5. The mere fact that two persons are charged and tried *jointly* does not render a confession made by one admissible in evidence against the other. State v. Weesel, 30 La. An. 919.

6. See cases in U. S. Courts, cited in note to DIGEST, 258 § 13.

that it was such is upon the prosecution in offering it.¹ A confession is, in a legal sense, "voluntary" when it is not induced or materially influenced by hope of release or other benefit, or fear of punishment or injury, inspired by one in authority; or more specifically, where it is not induced or influenced by words or acts,—such as promises, assurances, threats, harsh treatment or the like,—on the part of an official or other person competent to effectuate what is promised, threatened, &c., or at least believed to be thus competent by the party confessing.² And the reason of the rule is that where the confession is *not* thus voluntary, there is always ground to believe that it may not be *true*. On the other hand, a confession induced by an indifferent or unauthorized person—one, (as it is expressed in the Manual,⁴) "have

1. *Nicholson v. State*, 38 Md. 140, and cases referred to in last note. See also the principle illustrated in military cases published in the following Orders: G. C. M. O. 3 of 1876; G. O. 31, Dept. of Florida, 1865; Do. 54, Dept. of Dakota, 1867; Do. 5, Fifth Mil. Dist., 1868; Do. 4, Dept. of the Platte, 1871; G. C. M. O. 16, Div. of the Pacific & Dept. of Cal., 1881. "The course of practice is to inquire of the witness whether the prisoner had been told that it would be better for him to confess, or worse if he did not; or words to that effect." G. O. 4, Dept. of the Platte, 1871.

2. "Of course such inducement must be held out by some one who has, or who is supposed by the accused to have, some power or authority to assure him the promised good, or cause or influence the threatened injury." *Shaw C. J.*, in *Com. v. Morey*, 1 Gray, 461. And see *Com. v. Taylor*, 5 Cush. 610; *U. S. v. Pocklington*, 2 Cranch C. 293; *Cady v. State*, 44 Miss. 332; *Joy on Confessions*, 5, 23; 1 Greenl. Ev. § 222; *Wharton, Cr. Ev.* § 650, 651; *Manual*, 80, 81; G. C. M. O. 16, Div. of the Pacific & Dept. of Cal., 1881.

It is held that though influences may have been used that *per se* would render a confession incompetent, the same may be admitted in evidence if it is shown that the effect of such influences was in fact entirely dispelled before the confession was actually made. See 1 Greenl. Ev. § 221; *State v. Guild*, 5 Halst. 180; *People v. Jim Ti*, 32 Cal. 60; *Manual*, 81 § 77.

3. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 231; *People v. Ah Ki*, 20 Cal. 177. But where a confession induced by a promise, &c., is shown not to have been false by the fact that property confessed to have been stolen is surrendered, or its place of concealment truly disclosed, the confession, or rather the fact which accompanied it or was discovered in consequence of it, is admissible in evidence against the accused. *U. S. Hunter*, 1 Cranch C. 317; *U. S. v. Richard*, 2 Id. 439; *Frederick v. State*, 3 West Va. 695; *People v. Ah Ki*, *ante*. "Facts discovered in consequence of a confession improperly obtained, and so much of the confession as distinctly relates to those facts, may be proved." *Manual*, 81.

4. Page 80 § 76. And see *Joy on Confessions*, 23.

nothing to do with the apprehension, prosecution, or examination of the prisoner," is not to be regarded as involuntary, as there is good reason to believe that the party, through the groundless expectation of benefit or the reverse, may have been influenced into making a statement which is in fact not so.¹ Though confessions are in the majority of cases made to officials holding the party in confinement or arrest, the mere fact that he is in custody at the time of making the confession does not stamp it as involuntary.²

But the confession, though it must have been voluntary, need not have been *spontaneous*. It will be admissible though induced by the exhortations of a spiritual adviser, by appeals to the accused founded upon the claims of justice, the rights of other persons whose safety or interests are involved in his declaring the truth, &c., or by any other influence "collateral to the proceedings" and not such as to induce a substantial hope of favor or fear of punishment.³ So it will be admissible though elicited by questions addressed directly to the accused by a person in authority and assuming his guilt, or by means of making him partly intoxicated,⁴ or by practising upon him some deception by which he is entrapped into confessing.⁵

In *military cases*, in view of the authority and influence of superior rank, confessions made by inferiors, especially when ignorant or inexperienced and held in confinement or close arrest, should be regarded as incompetent unless very clearly shown not to have been unduly influenced. Statements, by way of confession, made by an inferior under charges to a commanding officer, to his advocate, or other superior whom the accused could rea-

See 1 Greenl. Ev. § 223.

Wharton, Cr. Ev. § 672; Wiley v. State, 3 Cold. 362; Com. v. Lon, 3 Brewst. 461.

1 Greenl. Ev. § 229; Manual, 80 § 76; Frank v. State, 39 Miss. 705.

1 Greenl. Ev. § 229; Wharton, Cr. Ev. § 676; Manual, 81 § 79; *De v. Ramirez*, 56 Cal. 533. But the confession of a person who is much intoxicated to be responsible for his statements is not competent evidence. See G. O. 234, Fifth Mil. Dist., 1869.

"Provided there is no reason to suppose that the inducement held out was calculated to produce any untrue confession, which is the main thing to be considered." 1 Greenl. Ev. § 229. And see Manual, 81 also, as very full on this general branch of the subject of justifiable inducements, &c., Wharton, Cr. Ev. § 647, 648, 654, 655, 657, 659, 660, 670, 675, 676.

sonably believe capable of making good his words, upon even a slight assurance of relief or benefit by such superior, should not in general be admitted. Thus in a recent case where a confession was made to his captain by a soldier upon being told by the former that "matters would be easier for him," or "as easy as possible," if he confessed, such confession was held not to have been voluntary and therefore improperly admitted.¹ And it has been similarly ruled in cases of confessions made by soldiers upon assurances held out, or intimidation resorted to, by non-commissioned officers.²

These principles are equally applicable to a *written* as to a verbal confession. But it is to be remarked that where, (as is often the case when it has been drawn up by another person,) a written confession specifies that the statement is freely made, without hope of favor or advantage, or fear of injurious consequence, (or in words to that effect,) the inquiry as to whether it was *in fact* voluntary is in no manner precluded.³ But a confession, written or verbal, may always be *confirmed* by evidence going to establish its truth and to prove that it has not been fabricated.⁴

Confessions of Accomplices. Applying here the general principle attaching to conspiracies and concerted crimes, it may be remarked that, a conspiracy or combination having once been proved, a confession by one conspirator or accomplice, provided it relate to the matter of the intended or pending criminal transaction, and be made before the purpose of the association has been accomplished, is admissible in evidence against any other conspirator or accomplice.⁵

Confessions to be Received with Caution. In view of the peculiar conditions of mind and body under which accused persons

1. G. C. M. O. 16, Div. of the Pacific & Dept. of Cal., 1881.

2. G. C. M. O. 3 of 1876; G. O. 54, Dept. of Dakota, 1867. Also see instance reported in DIGEST, 258.

3. In a case in G. O. 11, Army of the Potomac, 1864, the proceedings were disapproved because the court would not allow the accused to state that he had signed a written confession without knowing its contents and upon false representations made to him as to the same.

4. See 1 Greenl. Ev. § 231. So a confession may be contradicted to any part of it, by evidence offered by the prosecution. G. O. Dept. of the Platte, 1871.

5. See 1 Greenl. Ev. § 233; U. S. v. White, 5 Cranch C. 39. note also citation from State v. Weesel, 30 La. An. 919, *ante*.

s are often placed when making confessions, of the liability mistake on the part of the witnesses who repeat them when 1, and of the tendency of these latter to exaggerate through a 1 for conviction, evidence of confessions, unless corroborated by 1er reliable evidence, is in general to be received with caution. here, however, a confession is explicit and deliberate as well voluntary, and, if oral, is proved by a witness or witnesses by 1om it has not been misunderstood and is not misrepresented, is indeed one of the strongest forms of proof known to the law.¹

IV. EVIDENCE EXCLUDED FROM CONSIDERATIONS OF PUBLIC POLICY.

State Papers, Public Documents, &c. Under this head to be noted—first—confidential archives and “secrets of state,” rtaining to the administration of the government, the disclos- e of which would be prejudicial to the public interest.² Thus e archives of the executive departments at Washington, includ- g such papers and documents as official communications and rrespondence between the President or members of the Cabinet d public officials and agents, civil or military, reports of inves- tations and other official communications made, in the line of ty, by officers of the army or navy to their military or naval periors, records of advisory boards, courts of inquiry,³ &c.,— e esteemed of so *privileged* a character that heads of depart- ments or others in whose legal custody they are,⁴ cannot in gen-

1. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 214, 215; U. S. v. Nott, 1 McLean, 499; State v. ng, 1 Hayw. 524; Lehman v. McQueen, 65 Ala. 570; Whiteside v. te, 4 Cold. 175; G. C. M. O. 3 of 1876; G. O. 48, Dept. of the te, 1871; Do. 46, Div. of the Atlantic, 1874; DIGEST, 258.

2. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 250; DIGEST, 349-350.

3. In Home v. Bentinck, 2 Brod. & Bing., in holding that the record a certain military court of inquiry had been properly rejected as evi- ce upon objection raised at the trial, the court say, (p. 163,)—"On : broad rule of public policy and convenience, these matters, secret in ir natures, and involving delicate enquiry and the names of persons, nd protected." In our law, "the proceedings of a court of inquiry y be admitted as evidence by a court-martial," in cases and under circumstances specified in the 121st Article of war. As to the ad- sion in evidence of records of courts-martial, see *post*, under "Writ- Testimony."

. As to the routine papers and *quasi* permanent records of the War artment, not in general claimed to be privileged, and of which copies ise in evidence are ordinarily freely furnished, see DIGEST, 349-350.

eral be required to furnish the same, (or copies,) to be produced in court, if it be determined by them not to be for the public interest that their contents should be disclosed; nor, if furnished, will the courts in general admit them if objected to.¹ The courts appear to have recognized an exception to this rule only in a case of an official communication proved to have been made maliciously and without due cause.²

Names, &c., of Persons employed in Criminal Investigations. A like consideration—that it is important to the interests of the community in connection with the due administration of penal justice, as well as to the protection of the persons themselves, that public agents or others employed in the investigation of crime should not be known—excludes testimony which would make public the names of such persons, or their operations or information on which they have proceeded, except in so far as strict justice to the accused may render necessary.³

On a similar principle, a military officer, directed by an authorized superior to investigate a case of supposed dereliction and to make report, cannot properly be required as a witness before a court-martial, to disclose either the contents of his report, or the names of the persons examined by him or their statements.

1. *Home v. Ld. Bentinck*, 2 Brod. & Bing. 130; *Beatson v. Skeels*, 5 Hurl. & Nor. 837; *Dawkins v. Ld. Paulet*, 5 Q. B. 94; *Dawkins v. Rokeby*, 8 Id. 255; *Dickson v. Earl of Wilton*, 1 Fost. & Fin. 41; *Gardner v. Anderson*, 22 Int. Rev. Rec. 41; *Maurice v. Worden*, 54 Md. 233; XI Opins. At. Gen. 142; XV Id. 378, 415; *Wharton*, Crim. Ev. § 513; 1 Greenl. Ev. § 251; Manual, 84, § 94. Where the custodian declines to produce the paper on grounds of public policy, secondary evidence of its contents will not be received by the court. *Maurice v. Worden*, 54 Md. 233.

2. See *Maurice v. Worden*, 54 Md. 233. This was an action for libel based upon an official endorsement made by the defendant as Superintendent of the Naval Academy, in forwarding the resignation of the plaintiff, as an assistant professor, to the Secretary of the Navy. A copy of the endorsement, furnished to the plaintiff by the Navy Department, being offered in evidence, was objected to by the defendant on the ground that the writing was a privileged communication. The Court held it "to be privileged to the extent that the occasion of making it rebuts the presumption of malice, and throws upon the plaintiff the onus of proving that it was not made from duty, but from actual malice and without reasonable and probable cause."

3. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 250; *Rex v. Hardy*, 24 How. S. T. 753; *Rex v. Watson*, 2 Stark. 119; *U. S. v. Moses*, 4 Wash. C. 726; Manual, 85 §

Professional Communications. Under the present head is also properly considered evidence of professional communications, that is to say declarations and statements, verbal or written, made to a legal adviser. These are protected from disclosure on public grounds, and cannot be admitted in evidence if excepted to by the accused party by whom they were made.¹ Thus if an accused, in the course of his communications to his counsel, shall have disclosed the commission of, or participation in, by him, of the criminal offence with which he is charged, the counsel cannot be interrogated or required to testify as to the same against the objection of the accused. So, a counsel, against such objection, cannot be obliged to produce or disclose the contents of papers committed to him in his official capacity by the accused.²

It is to be remarked that the privilege of objecting to the disclosure in evidence by counsel of communications made to him professionally is *personal to the client* and for his benefit, and that the objection may be *waived* by him.³

The rule under consideration is laid down by the authorities with reference of course to *civilian* legal advisers. But, in principle, it is equally applicable to the relations between the accused and *military* persons acting as their counsel on military trials, where professional counsel is often not attainable and resort is

1. In the absence of such protection, "the course of justice must stop. No man will dare to consult a professional adviser with a view to his defence or to the enforcement of his rights." * * * Without such privilege, "no person can safely come into a court either to obtain redress or to defend himself." Lord Ch. Brougham, in *Bolton v. Corp. of Liverpool*, 1 My. & K. 94, 95. And see *Bk. of Utica v. Mersereau*, 3 Barb. 528; *Cheirac v. Reinicker*, 11 Wheaton, 280; *Aiken v. Kilburne*, 27 Maine, 252; IV Opins. At. Gen., 383; 1 Greenl. Ev. § 237-246. "But this protection does not extend to any such communications if made in furtherance of any *criminal* purpose." Manual, 85 § 99.

2. But he may be examined as to the fact of the existence of such papers, in order to let in secondary evidence as to their contents. So he may be called upon to prove the identity of his client, or his handwriting. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 245; IV Opins. At. Gen., 384.

3. It is an implied waiver of the privilege for the party to examine his own attorney, as a witness, in regard to communications professionally made to him by the party, and where he does so, the witness is bound to answer generally, on cross-examination. *Crittenden v. Strother*, 2 Branch C. 464.

That the counsel may be willing to be examined does not affect the privilege of the client to object. *Aiken v. Kilburne*, 27 Maine, 252.

religious creeds and the freedom of religious belief recognized in this country and impliedly sanctioned by the Constitution, the objection to a mature person offered as a witness, that he was insensible to the obligation of an oath, would have to be more clearly established to be accepted as excluding him from the stand on a military trial.¹ In the case of a very young child a less degree of proof would be called for, though here the proper objection would be that of deficiency of intelligence rather than of religious sense.²

It is to be noted that the exception under consideration, where it exists in any degree to a witness, may in general be avoided by his making *an affirmation in lieu of an oath*³—as all witnesses are authorized to do by our law.⁴

Infamy. At the common law, "infamy," or the status of having been convicted of an "infamous" crime, renders a person incompetent as a witness. The term infamous crime comprehended "treason, felony, and the *crimen falsi*;" the latter term having reference to such offences as perjury, forgery and conspiracy and to certain frauds. An objection on the ground of infamy can be sustained only by the production of the record of conviction and judgment; proof merely that the party has been subjected

1. The weight of authority seems to be in favor of the view that the objection must be sustained by the testimony of persons other than the witness—persons who have heard his declarations, &c.; and that the witness himself cannot be personally questioned as to his religious opinions. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 370 and note; Wharton, Cr. Ev. § 358, 362.

On Gen. Swaim's Trial, a witness, objected to as incompetent for want of religious belief, stated that he neither believed nor disbelieved in the existence of a Supreme Being—was an "Agnostic." No other testimony was offered. The Court sustained the objection.

In a case in G. O. 10, Dept. of the Columbia, 1871, in which an Indian witness was rejected as incompetent because insensible to the sanctity of an oath, the proceeding was disapproved for the reason that no *proof* of such insensibility appeared to have been offered.

2. See *post*.

3. Wharton, Cr. Ev. § 361.

4. "A requirement of an 'oath' shall be deemed complied with by making affirmation in judicial form." Rev. Sts., Sec. 1. And see Article 92.

"Persons who entertain conscientious scruples against the form of judicial oath are allowed, when summoned as witnesses, to use the formula—'I solemnly and truly declare and affirm,' or words to like effect, without importing any relaxation of the punishment of perjury if they give false testimony." Abbott's Law Dictionary—Affirm.

ishment is not sufficient.¹ It is apparently held by authority that a record of a "*foreign*" judgment of a court of a different State—will not objection.² Whether, therefore, a conviction of a civil court—or any such court other than a court of the United States—could be accepted as establishing such a disability before a court-martial is certainly doubtful. At the absence of any statute attaching such a disability, if an officer or soldier has been convicted of desertion or military offence can affect in no manner his competency before a court-martial.³ A military case to which the law rule would appear most aptly to apply would be an officer or soldier convicted by a court-martial, in one of one of the higher crimes specified in Art. 58.

Testimony of Understanding. The persons held incompetent to testify in this cause are chiefly idiots, insane persons, persons in intoxication and very young children. In the words of the law—“A witness is incompetent if, in the opinion of the court, he is prevented by extreme youth, disease affecting his mind, or any other cause of the same kind, from recollecting the facts on which he is to testify, from understanding the questions put to him, from giving rational answers to those questions, or from knowing that he ought to speak the truth.” That *deaf and dumb* does not render him incompetent, if he has average intelligence and can communicate what he wishes either in writing or by signs through an interpreter. There is something in the appearance of the witness which convinces the jury that he is competent to testify. If there is something in the appearance of the witness which convinces the jury that he has not the requisite intelligence, the *onus* of showing that the witness is incompetent from want of understanding will be upon the

1. Ev. § 372, 375.

2. Ev. § 376; Wharton, Cr. Ev. § 363. note.

3. 10, Dept. of the Platte, 1867; Do. 2, Dept. of Dakota, 1875; Do. 3, Dept. of the East, 1870; Do. 44, Dept. of the Columbia, 1883; Do. 45, Dept. of Cal., 1883.

4. A soldier is not rendered incompetent to testify as a witness before a court-martial by the fact that he is an enemy in arms. See DIGEST, where it is held that members of the confederate army were admitted to testify upon a military commission, of the Assassins of President Lincoln, Henry Wirz, in 1865, while the *status belli* was still pending. § 86.

party objecting. The court also, especially in the case of children, may itself properly interrogate the witness, with a view more fully satisfying itself as to his competency.¹

The law has fixed no age at which a *child* may be presumed to have the requisite understanding to qualify it to be a witness. The competency of children depends more upon intelligence than age.

As to *insane* persons, the fact that they are subject to fits and derangement does not affect their competency provided they are sane at the time of being called upon to testify.² So a person insane upon some particular subject or subjects will not be incompetent as a witness if his delusions do not materially impair his general intelligence.³

Intoxication should in general render a person only temporarily incompetent as a witness. "Witnesses put aside when drunk may be examined when sober."⁴

Wives of Accused Persons. The familiar general rule of the law of evidence that neither the husband nor the wife is competent as a witness either for or against the other, though departed from in some of the States, is strictly held in the criminal courts of the United States and in courts-martial.⁵ And the application of the principle extends "to all cases in which the interests of the other party are involved."⁶ Thus the testimony of the wife of an accused will not be admissible for or against the party jointly charged with him where her testimony will be material to the merits of the question of the guilt or innocence of her husband.⁷

The general rule, however, is subject to exception in cases

1. See 1 Greenl. Ev. § 367.

2. *Evans v. Hettich*, 7 Wheaton, 470; 1 Greenl. Ev. § 365; *Simmons* § 921.

3. *Regina v. Hill*, 5 Eng. L. & E. 547.

4. *Simmons* § 921.

5. See the reasons for this rule as set forth by McLean, J., in *Stein v. Bowman*, 13 Peters, 223; also in 1 Greenl. Ev. § 254, 334, 337. The statute of 1878 authorizing accused persons to testify, (see *post*.) does not affect the application of the rule. See DIGEST, 482.

6. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 335.

7. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 335, 407; *Simmons* § 925; *Territory v. Paul*, Mont. 314.

where the trial is for bodily injury or violence inflicted by the husband on the wife or *vice versa*.”¹

Thus, in a military case, a wife would in general properly be held incompetent to testify against her husband when charged with a violation of the 61st or 62d Article of war in maltreating her under circumstances rendering his act a military offence.²

Accused Persons Themselves. By the Act of Congress of March 16, 1878, c. 37, it is provided that upon criminal trials and proceedings before not only “United States courts” and “Territorial courts,” but also “courts-martial and courts of inquiry,” an accused “shall, at his own request but not otherwise, be a competent witness.”³ An accused person thus may, at his option, take the stand as a witness, but in so doing he occupies no exceptional status,⁴ and, (as will be more particularly noticed hereafter,) becomes subject to cross-examination like any other witness.

Co-accused and Accomplices. Except when testifying at his own request under the Act of 1878, above cited, a defendant in a criminal case is not regularly competent as a witness for or against a *co-defendant* unless he has been discharged from the record,—as by the entry of a *nolle prosequi*,—or unless, having been accorded a separate trial, (a proceeding of rare occurrence in the military practice,) he has been duly acquitted or convicted. In military cases where the prosecution proposes to call upon a co-accused as a witness, the entry of a *nolle prosequi*, though the more usual course, is not invariable: where this course is not pursued, and the witness has testified in good faith on the trial, it is in general announced in the Order in which the proceedings in the case are passed upon that he is released from arrest and other proceedings against him are discontinued.⁵

1. Manual, 82 § 85.

2. See cases in G. C. M. O. 17 of 1871; G. O. 1, Dept. of Miss., 1866.

3. “And”—it is added—“his failure to make such request shall not create any presumption against him.”

The words “at his own request but not otherwise” indicate the distinction between our law and that of Europe where, at courts-martial, an inquisitorial form of examination is pursued as to the accused.

4. *McKeone v. People*, 6 Col. 346; G. C. M. O. 179, Dept. of Dakota, 1882.

5. See instances in G. O. 13, Dept. of the South, 1866; Do. 30, Dept. of Cal., 1865.

Premising that the direct examination of every witness properly begins in general with asking his name, and, in military cases, his office, rank, corps, regiment, &c., and whether he knows or identifies the accused,—we proceed to notice certain general principles which, though *in part* applicable to all stages of the examination of a witness, are best illustrated as governing Examination-in-chief—as follows:

The Examination should consist of Questions relevant to the Issue. This rule, the application of which is one of the features which distinguish the direct from the cross examination, has been specifically considered under an earlier title.¹

All the Testimony is to be viva voce, and to consist of facts derived from the Personal Knowledge and Memory of the Witness. This principle is indeed one of general application, but is here noticed because of two apparent qualifications which affect its operation in the course especially of the direct examination.

Memorandum to refresh memory. Thus, the general rule is compatible with allowing a witness to “refresh and assist” his memory by a reference to some *writing*, which may be either an official document or other written instrument, (original or copy,) or a formal entry in a book, or any mere note or memorandum, written or in print. Where the writing consists of a memorandum or paper made by the witness himself, it should appear, from the testimony, to have been made at the time of the fact or transaction to which it refers, or so soon after as to afford the presumption that the memory of the witness as to such fact, &c., was refreshed in making it. Where the paper is not one made by the witness, it must appear that, on inspecting it, he can speak to facts from his own recollection; otherwise he cannot be permitted to make use of it. Nor indeed can he use it in any case, whether by whomever made, unless it enables or assists him to testify from his own memory or knowledge. If, instead of serving as a mereresher of memory, it is relied upon to supply facts not otherwise known to the witness, it is of course not a legitimate means of refreshment.² It is usual and desirable, (though not essential,) to

¹ See “Admissibility of Evidence,” *ante*.

² U. S. v. Wood, 3 Washington, 440; Patriotic Bk. v. Frye, 2

that the writing be brought into court and produced by (or exhibited to) the witness upon the stand, since thus its natural effect can be fully made to appear on the direct or cross examination.¹

Statement of opinion or belief. The general rule, requiring the witness to state facts within his personal knowledge does not require that he should speak with entire certainty only to the best of his recollection. If his testimony, though not of an assured character, be based upon *some* memory of facts, it will be admissible for what it is worth. But the (*except* as presently to be noted,) *does* exclude all matters not in the individual *opinion* of the witness. His opinion upon merits of the issue, or as to the motives, intention, or conduct of others, or the effect of their acts, or as to what would have been his own conduct in a particular case, or upon any general question of moral or legal obligation, is wholly inadmissible and should be ruled out on objection made.²

Cranch C. 684; State v. Rawls, 2 Nott & McC. 331; Elston v. Elcott, 40 Ills. 187; Hill v. State, 17 Wisc. 675; 1 Greenl. Ev. § 437, Manual, 86. It is not sufficient for the witness to swear that he has a memorandum which he believes to be true, and that he relies upon it without any present recollection of the facts. Lawrence v. Ball, Wend. 305. The privilege of using a paper as a memorandum to refresh the memory, does not authorize the witness to read his evidence notes previously prepared. Maltby, 44-5. It has been held that a witness may make use, as a refresher, of a *copy* of an original memorandum provided it satisfactorily appears that the copy is a true one. Cf. *Ex. v. R. R. Co.*; Adler, 50 Ills. 344. In a case in G. C. M. O. 22, of the East, 1882, it was held that a guard book, containing an entry of a charge of absence-without-leave against a soldier, not being evidence of the commission of the offence, could be used as a memorandum to refresh the memory of a witness as to the occurrence.

1. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 437, and notes.

2. See 1 Greenl. Ev. § 441; DIGEST, 255; Manual, 86. Witnesses are not to testify as to their *opinion* or what they *think*, but what they *know*, or have *seen*. G. C. M. O. 62, Dept. of the East, 1872. Opinions of witnesses who are not experts, are not admissible. G. C. M. O. 106, 32, Dept. of the East, 1869; G. C. M. O. 121, Id., G. C. O. 42, Dept. of the Pacific, 1871; G. C. M. O. 17, Dept. of the East, 1873. Opinions of officers on points upon which the *court* is the judge are inadmissible. G. C. M. O. 41, Dept. of the East, 1872; *Wheeler v. State*, 77, 30, 25, 24. A witness cannot be asked his *opinion* on the prisoner's guilt. G. C. M. O. 21, Dept. of the East, 1871, whether he thinks that the accused intended to desert, this being tantamount to the issue. G. C. M. O. 75, Dept. of the East, 1871.

for a witness, however, to declare the existence or occurrence of a fact which is a matter of *common observation*, and in general probable and scarcely mistakable—as the fact of *drunkenness*, or that the accused or other person *was drunk* on a certain occasion—is not properly a statement of an *opinion* but of a fact so far within the personal knowledge of the witness as to render it admissible evidence.¹

Exceptions—Facts at issue resting on belief. There are here noticed two excepted classes of cases, however, in which witnesses are allowed to declare their opinion or belief. The first is where a certain matter of fact resting wholly on belief is directly in issue, as the fact, for example, of the *identity* of a person. So of the fact that a writing is or not in the *handwriting* of a party: here a witness familiar with the handwriting may be asked and may state his belief as to the fact in issue, without the aid of an expert.²

Opinions of experts. The second class is the familiar one of cases involving questions of science or questions requiring for their solution a peculiar skill or knowledge of a specialty, in which it is admitted the testimony of *experts*.³ Thus, in the mili-

People *v.* Eastwood, 14 N. Y. 562; Stacy *v.* Portland Pub. Co., 14 Maine, 279; Sydleman *v.* Beckwith, 43 Conn. 12; State *v.* Huxford, 10 Iowa, 16; G. O. 42, Dept. of the Platte, 1871. As to drunkenness, the views of officers and non-commissioned officers are in general more reliable than those of private soldiers. G. O. 27, Dept. of the Arkansas, 1866. But the witness could not properly be asked whether the accused was so drunk as to be incapable of forming a criminal intent. People *v.* State, 63 Ala. 173.

Opinions of witnesses derived from observation are admissible when, "the nature of the subject under investigation, no better evidence could be obtained." Brown *v.* Com., 14 Bush, 405. And see Hardy *v.* Mill, 56 N. H. 232. In Ins. Co. *v.* Lathrop, 111 U. S., 612, it is held that a non-expert may give his opinion as to the *sanity* of another person, in connection with a statement of the facts and circumstances upon which his knowledge upon which such opinion is based.

As to proof of Handwriting by experts, &c., see "Private Writings," *post*.

See 1 Greenl. Ev. § 440. The qualifications of the expert to give evidence, as such, may be tested not only by interrogating the witness himself as to his experience, but also, (though this means is not often resorted to,) by the testimony of other witnesses. Tullis *v.* Kidd, 12 Ala.

And not only should the character of experts, as such, be "satisfactorily established," but their testimony, to be reliable, "must be free from suspicion of interest, bias, or prejudice." Schultz *v.* U. S., 2 Ct. of

tary practice as in the civil, medical men, whether or not officers of the army, are frequently and properly called to testify as to the cause of death or disease, the effect of wounds or injuries, or the question of the sanity of an accused person, witness, &c. Such experts, in expressing their opinions, need not found them upon any personal observation; it is sufficient if they are based upon the facts of the case as narrated by other witnesses whose testimony they have listened to, or, where they have not heard the facts detailed in evidence, upon a statement of similar facts presented hypothetically by the examining party or counsel.

Cl. 380. In *Johnson v. Root*, 1 Fisher, 361, Sprague J. charges the jury to consider, in weighing the testimony of an expert, "his ability, his knowledge of the art or profession in which he is engaged, the fairness with which he expresses an opinion, the impartiality of that opinion, and all those considerations which go to create a confidence or a distrust of the opinion which is given. You will," he adds, "take into consideration also the reasons that may be assigned by the experts for their opinions." In *Tullis v. Kidd*, it was held, in regard to a medical expert, that it was not necessary that he should be in the practice of his profession, if it appeared that he had studied it as a science, and "felt competent to express a medical opinion upon a particular disease;" the fact that he was not at the time a practising physician going to his credit only. But of course the weight and value of the testimony will depend mainly upon the amount of the practical experience of the witness. See *Allen v. Hunter*, 6 McLean, 303.

"Officers of the army, *as such*, are not to be treated as experts before a military court." G. C. M. O. 41, Dept. of the East, 1872. In *De* 113, Id., 1871, the action of a court-martial in calling upon the Judge Advocate of the Department to testify as an expert upon a question of law raised in the case—whether a member absent at the organization could subsequently come in, qualify and act—was properly disapproved by the Dept. Commander.

1. See 3 Greenl. Ev. § 5.

2. The following appear to be approved forms of interrogating the expert in this class of cases: 1. *Where the expert has heard all the testimony in regard to the actions, indications, &c., of the accused, (or witness,) alleged to have been insane.* Here he may properly be asked: 'Supposing the testimony which you have heard to be true, is it your opinion thereon that such person is, (or was, at the time of the offence) insane?' It may be also asked—'What state of mind do such symptoms, &c., indicate?'—or 'What would, in the belief of the witness, be the conduct of such a person in certain supposed circumstances.' (*See* *Com. v. Rogers*, 7 Met. 506.) 2. *Where the expert has not heard the testimony or has heard it only in part.* Here it is the practice for the examining party or counsel to state to the witness the substance of the testimony, and then to ask, whether, *supposing such testimony to be true*, the person in question was, (or is,) not, in the opinion of the witness, insane, &c., as above. The hypothetical question must be based upon

pert cannot state his opinion "as to the general merits of use," but only his opinion "upon the facts proved;" nor state it as to any *other* question in the case not involving knowledge for its solution.¹

Party may not Impeach the Credibility of his own **ess.** This is also a general rule peculiar to the direct examination. A party, in offering a witness, is presumed to be acquainted with his character and is viewed as representing him entitled to credit. He is therefore in general bound by the contents of the witness, and if his statements prove contrary to what was expected, the party will not be permitted to impugn the credibility, either directly by attacking his general reputation for veracity, or indirectly by "general evidence tending to show the unworthiness of belief."² The party is not indeed precluded from putting in *other* testimony, as to a particular fact, which is only contradictory to the testimony of such witness;³ but *other* testimony cannot properly be introduced in the form of personal reflection upon the witness. Where, however, a party has been innocently misled by the witness whose statement at the stand turns out to be materially different from the one previously made, and which induced the party to introduce him, "the weight of authority," says Greenleaf, "seems in favor of permitting the party to show, that the evidence has taken him by surprise, and is contrary to the examination of the witness previously to the trial, or to what the party had reason to believe he would testify; or, that the witness has recently been brought

as evidence in the case tending to prove the matters stated in the opinion. *Bomgardner v. Andrews*, 55 Iowa, 638.

See 1 Greenl. Ev. § 440; *U. S. v. McGlue*, 1 Curtis, 1. "Even if the medical or other professional witnesses have attended the trial and heard the testimony of the other witnesses as to the facts and circumstances of the case, they are not to judge of the credit of the witnesses or of the truth of the facts testified by them. *Com. v. [?]*, 7 Met. 505.

Greenl. Ev. § 442; *Lawrence v. Baker*, 5 Wend. 305; *Cooker v. [?]*, 7 Philad. 199. In G. O. 4 of 1843, where the accused was allowed by the court to call a witness to contradict a previous witness called by him, and show that the latter had made a different statement than that given in his testimony, the proceedings were in this respect approved by the Secretary of War.

Greenl. Ev. § 443; *U. S. v. Watkins*, 3 Cranch C. 442; *Lawrence v. Baker*, 5 Wend. 305; *Clapp v. Peck*, 55 Iowa, 270.

under the influence of the other party, and has deceived the party calling him."¹

Leading Questions are Not to be Asked. It is a further general rule governing the *direct* as distinguished from the *cross* examination,² that a "leading" form of questioning a witness may not be pursued in regard to the material facts at issue in the case on trial.³ The 90th Article of war recognizes this rule in making it the duty of the judge advocates to "object to any leading questions to any of the witnesses," as a measure of protection to the accused. Leading questions may be said to consist mainly of three sorts, closely connected however in their nature, as follows:—1. Those "which suggest to the witness the answer desired;" 2. Those "which, embodying a material fact, admit of an answer by a simple negative or affirmative;" 3. Those which, in their form, "assume facts to have been proved which have not been proved," or assume "that particular answers have been given which have not been given."⁴ The proper and legitimate province of direct examination is to elicit the precise matters of fact within the knowledge or recollection of the witness and no more, and to induce him to communicate them naturally and in his own language without either prompting or restraint. Any direction, therefore, given to his thoughts, on the part of the interrogator; any suggestion as to the form of

1. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 444. That a party may discredit his witness when he has been entrapped, see *McDaniel v. State*, 53 Ga. 253.

2. "To allow leading questions is to give a direct the character of a cross examination." *People v. Mather*, 4 Wend. 247. As to the nature of leading questions on the cross-examination, see *post*.

3. The rule does not apply to questions put in regard to *preliminary* matter, not tending to prove or disprove the issue. *Gannon v. Stevens*, 13 Kans. 447; 1 Greenl. Ev. § 434. "It would be mere waste of time to enforce the rule where the questions asked are simply *introductory* and form no part of the real substance of the inquiry, or where they relate to matters which, though material, are not disputed. But where a question relates to a contested point, which is either directly conclusive of the matter in issue, or directly and proximately connected with it, the rule should nearly always be strictly enforced." *Manual*, 87 § 106.

4. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 434; *Manual*, 87 § 106. "It is a mistake to suppose that such only is a leading question to which *yes* or *no* would be a conclusive answer. A question is also leading which puts into a witness's mouth the words that are to be echoed back, or plainly suggests the answer which the party wishes to get from him." *Marcy J., in People v. Mather*, 4 Wend. 247.

nance of his answer; any repression of a full statement of what he has to say that is material; any deceit or disingenuous concealment in the question that may tend to shape the reply; to mislead the witness, divert it from its intended form, or, in short, to pre-empt or embarrass a true and honest response,—these and all similar influences and expedients are, as a general rule, irregular and unauthorized.¹

Exceptions. There are recognized, however, certain exceptions in which leading questions may not only be proper but necessary for the eliciting of the truth. As where the witness is manifestly *hostile* to the party by whom he has been called, or is in the *interest* of the opposite party, or exhibits, for some cause, a decided *unwillingness or reluctance* to testify, or a disposition to equivocate, or is stupid, or is very young.² A further exception is where the testimony of the witness is defective in that he cannot recollect or specify a certain material fact: here it may be proper to mention or suggest the particular matter in regard to which an answer is desired.³ But in such a case the most approved course is first to exhaust the recollection of the witness by asking him what was said or done, &c., in general. If, when he has made his statement in answer, some material circumstance is omitted, the best practice is to ask him if he has stated all that he remembers, and, upon his replying that he has, to then call his attention, by specifying it, to the particular fact, thing, or circumstance, and inquire if it existed, was done, said, &c. Among the more familiar occasions for pursuing this course are those where a name, a date, or an item such as an article of property—perhaps one out of many—has been forgotten; or where disreputable or other material words spoken, the phraseology of a verdict, &c., cannot be recalled or accurately testified to without so specified.

Discretion of the court as to the admission of leading questions—Military cases. Whether, in any civil case, the

¹ 'If it were not for this rule, a favorable and dishonest witness would be made to give any evidence that is desired.' Manual, 87 § 106.

² Greenl. Ev. § 435; *People v. Mather*, *ante*; *Moody v. Rowell*, 100 Ill. 498; *Coon v. People*, 99 Ills. 368; G. C. M. O. 18 of 1874—*People v. Gen. Terry*; Do. 14 of 1864; G. O. 36, Dept. of La., 1869; 1, 88–9.

³ Greenl. Ev. § 435; Manual, 88; *People v. Mather*, *ante*; *Moody v. Rowell*, *ante*.

circumstances presented constitute so far an *exception* to the general rule as properly to allow leading questions to be put on the direct examination of a witness, is a matter which rests entirely in the *discretion* of the court, and not one which can be "assigned for error."¹ So, in a *military* case, the improper admission of a leading question or questions would not affect the legal validity of the proceedings, though, in an extreme instance, it might well induce a disapproval of the same.²

A special form of leading interrogation, sometimes pursued in military cases but irregular and improper, may here be noticed. This consists in reading the charge and specification, or stating their substance, to the witness, and then asking him what he knows on the subject. This form is objectionable in that it leads the witness as to the details of the offence as charged, and suggests them to him as a given basis for his testimony, instead of leaving the same to rest solely on his personal knowledge and recollection. It has been repeatedly condemned by the authorities and in Orders.³

2. *Cross-Examination.*

Its Scope in general. The direct examination of a witness being concluded, the opposite party, though he may waive it, proceeds ordinarily to avail himself of the right of cross-examination. The exercise of this right, as a test of the perception,

1. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 435; *Moody v. Rowell*, *ante*; *Donnell v. Jones*, 13 Ala. 490; *Shufflin v. People*, 4 Hun. 16; *King v. Mittalberger*, 30 Mo. 182.

2. In G. O. 36, Fifth Mil. Dist., 1868, it is remarked by the reviewing officer, (Gen. Neill,) in regard to the action of the court in admitting questions of this character, as follows:—"There appears to have been no limit to the number of leading questions improperly allowed. Thus arbitrarily to set aside the rules of evidence is unprecedented and illegal. A Court possesses no power to authorize the examination of a witness to be conducted in any other manner than that sanctioned by the well established rules of law. The proceedings are disapproved." And see G. O. 71, Dept. of Dakota, 1870.

3. See *McNaghten*, 185; *Bombay R.*, 28; *Gilchrist*, 20; G. O. 12, Dept. of the Mo. 1862; Do. 36, Id., 1863; Do. 77, Dept. of the East, 1870; Do. 29, Dept. of Cal., 1865; G. C. M. O. 54, 120, Div. of the Pacific & Dept. of Cal., 1880; DIGEST, 255. A still more objectionable form is to recite the charge in terms or substance, and ask the witness directly whether the accused actually committed the specific alleged. As—"Did he desert?" "Did he sell or through neglect lose his clothing, &c.?" See G. O. 67, Dept. of the South, 1874; DIGEST, 255.

ervation, recollection and veracity of the witness,—always important to the due investigation of truth and administration of justice,—has become even more so than formerly; certain classes of persons who once were excluded from the stand—including the accused himself—being now admitted, and facts which once went to the competency now going to the credibility of the witness. In view of its purpose and significance, a much greater latitude is properly allowed in the cross-examination than in the direct;² leading questions, for example, being freely permitted;³ and matters otherwise irrelevant and collateral being allowed to be gone into to a reasonable extent, (and subject to the limitations yet to be noticed,) where properly apposite to the testing of the knowledge, memory, or *animus* of the witness, or to discrediting him in general.⁴

1. That an accused person, on taking the stand, subjects himself to cross-examination in the same manner and to the same extent as any other witness,—see DIGEST, 258, 482; G. O. 8, 16, Dept. of the Platte, 379; Do. 6, Id., 1880; G. C. M. O. 34, Dept. of Texas, 1879; Do. 13, Id., 1882; Do. 179, Dept. of Dakota, 1882; Wheelden v. Wilson, 44 Maine, 11; Marx v. People, 63 Barb. 618; Fralich v. People, 65 Id. 48; Clark v. State, 50 Ind. 514; People v. McGungill, 41 Cal. 429; Rea v. Missouri, 17 Wallace, 542. In the last case it is said that even a greater latitude is allowed in the cross-examination of a *party*.

2. It is however always within the discretion of the court to confine a cross-examination within reasonable limits—to stop it when unreasonably retraced. Reed v. Clark, 47 Cal. 194. Under the license of cross-examination a party cannot be permitted to bully or insult a witness, particularly when he is an official superior to whom he owes deference and respect. See remarks of Gen. Terry in G. C. M. O. 134, Dept. of Dakota, 1884.

3. The right to employ leading questions on the cross-examination is subject to a possible limitation, in the discretion of the court, "where the witness shows a strong interest or bias in favor of the cross-examining party, and needs only an intimation to say whatever is most favorable to that party." Moody v. Rowell, 17 Pick. 498. And see G. C. M. O. 18 of 1874—remarks of Gen. Terry.

4. "Everything which goes to affect the credit of a witness as to the particular facts to which he is called to testify is material and admissible." Com. v. Hunt, 4 Gray, 423. See the point, that questions as to the motives or *animus* of the witness are permissible on the cross-examination, recognized in G. C. M. O. 7 of 1873; Do. 8, Fourth Mil. Dist., 1867; Do. 23, Dept. of Texas, 1873; G. O. 11, Dept. of Cal., 1865; Do. 8, Div. the Atlantic, 1875. That the question, whether the witness has not previously expressed *hostility* toward the accused, is not an irrelevant one on cross-examination, see *post*. In G. C. M. O. 24 of 1872, it was held that a witness, who had testified that the accused was drunk, might be asked, to test his powers of perception at the time, whether he was

Upon the liberty, however, of cross-examination there are certain restrictions, as follows:—

1. To be confined to the matter of the direct examination. The rule is established in the U. S. courts,¹ and observed in the military practice,² of restricting in general the cross-examination to the subject and scope of the direct examination. Such rule tends to simplify and confine within reasonable limits the investigation of a criminal trial, and is peculiarly adapted to the purposes of a court-martial as an instrument of prompt and efficient justice. In consequence of this rule, if the adverse party wishes to examine the witness as to matters not embraced within the scope of the direct examination, he must, as observed by Judge Story, "do so by making the witness his own, and calling him, as such, in the subsequent progress of the cause."³ This rule indeed may be allowed to be departed from in the discretion of the court;⁴ and it is to be understood that it has reference mainly to facts pertaining to the issue and material to the prosecution or defence, and does not apply to questions outside of the main subject at issue and asked for the purpose of testing the motives, prejudice, or credit of the witness.

2. Not to be extended to collateral matters with a view to contradict the witness—Previous statements and expressions. It is an established rule of the law of evidence, repeatedly recognized in military cases,⁵ that a party cannot be

then himself sober. And see a similar case in G. O. 48, Dept. of the South, 1869, cited *post*.

1. R. R. Co. v. Stimpson, 14 Peters, 461; Houghton v. Jones, 1 Wallace, 702; Rea v. Missouri, 17 Id. 542.

2. Simmons § 604; G. O. 85, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1867; G. C. M. O. 18, Dept. of the Columbia, 1880. But a party has the same right to cross-examine a witness as to matter brought out, on the direct examination, by questions addressed *by the court*, as he has in regard to matter brought out by the opposite party. G. C. M. O. 48, Div. of the Pacific & Dept. of Cal., 1880.

3. R. R. Co. v. Stimpson, *ante*. Matters of defence are not in general properly proved by cross-examination. Dennis v. Van Voy, 8 Vroom, 38. A party who has not yet opened his own case cannot in general properly do so by a cross-examination of his adversary's witnesses. Thornton v. Hook, 36 Cal. 223.

4. See Rea v. Missouri, 17 Wallace, 542.

5. Simmons § 975; Lieut. Hyder's Trial, 157; Lieut. Col. Fremont Trial, 256. And see the case of 1st Sgt. Clerc, in G. C. M. O. 45, De

mitted to cross-examine a witness as to any "collateral, independent fact, irrelevant to the main issue," for the purpose of laying a foundation for subsequently contradicting him by other evidence and thus discrediting him; but that the answers of the witness to all such collateral interrogation are to be taken as conclusive against the cross-examining party.

But a question whether the witness has not at some previous time told a different story, or given a different account of the matter testified to on his direct examination, is not collateral or irrelevant; nor is a question whether the witness has not previously expressed hostility toward the accused.¹ And questions of either kind, being relevant, may be asked the witness on cross-examination, with a view of contradicting him by other evidence, in the event of his returning a negative answer.² The form of the cross-examination in such cases will be further referred to under the head of "Impeaching Testimony."

3. *Re-Examination, &c.*

Its Scope. Where the witness, in the course of the cross-examination to which he has been subjected, has made statements not in harmony with those made upon the examination in chief, or statements of a doubtful or equivocal character, an occasion is presented for his *re-examination*, (or, as it is sometimes called, "examination in reply,") by the party who originally called him, for the purpose of eliciting from him an *explanation* of such

¹ Cal., 1883, in which it is remarked by the reviewing authority, (Gen. Schofield,) as follows:—"The defence was permitted to ask a witness for the prosecution, on cross-examination, collateral and irrelevant questions, viz.: whether he had ever been tried or sentenced for desertion, with a view to contradicting him, (on his answering in the negative,) by subsequent testimony in chief, which also was allowed to be introduced against the objection of the judge advocate. In permitting this to be done, the court disregarded one of the fundamental rules of the law of evidence, and its action is disapproved."

1. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 449, 450. That these questions may be asked notwithstanding the rank of the witness, see DIGEST, 254, and General Orders there cited.

2. See the principle recognized in military cases, as to the expressing hostility by the witness, in G. C. M. O. 8, Fourth Mil. Dist., 1867; O. 11, Dept. of Cal., 1865; Do. 8, Div. of the Atlantic, 1875;—as the making of different statements by the witness, in G. C. M. O. 40 1880; Do. 8, Fourth Mil. Dist., 1867; Do. 23, Dept. of Texas, 1873; O. 31, Dept. of Dakota, 1869.

statements, as also (if desired) of his *motives* in making the same. But this is, strictly, the full scope of a re-examination, which cannot in general extend to the bringing out of new matter,¹ and hence the desirableness of exhausting a witness as far as possible on the original examination.²

Where, however, upon the cross-examination, the opposite party has been allowed to go into matters not testified to upon the direct examination, the other party will become entitled to re-examine as to the subjects of the testimony thus introduced.

Rebutting evidence. New evidence introduced on the defence, or otherwise, may always be rebutted by the opposite party. Rebutting evidence is direct evidence, and the same rules apply to it as to the direct examination. It should be noted that mere *cumulative* evidence, or evidence repeating facts already introduced at a previous stage, is not in general properly admitted by way of rebuttal.

Exceptions to course of examination. As to the authority of the court, in its discretion, to allow a party to recall a witness once dismissed, for further examination as to a material point inadvertently omitted to be inquired into, or a point since brought to the attention of the party, or for further cross-examination where the regular cross-examination has been closed; or to allow a witness to be further examined, or new witnesses to be introduced by a party, after he has rested his side of the case, or both sides of the case have been closed,—remark has been made in Chapter XVII, in considering the course of proceeding on the trial.

Examination by the court. In the same Chapter is also noticed the subject of the extent of the authority of the court to examine the witnesses and of the practice as to the form and occasion of such examination.

1. See 1 Greenl. Ev. § 467. "On the re-examination no question can be put which do not relate to matters inquired into on the cross-examination." *Dutton v. Woodman*, 9 Cush. 255.

2. "On the examination in chief, the party calling a witness is bound at his peril to interrogate him as to all material matters in the first instance; and if any material question is omitted it cannot be put upon the examination in reply." *Sartorius v. State*, 24 Miss. 609. But while this is the strict rule, the court may, in its discretion, make exception in the interests of justice.

The Privilege of the Witness as to not Answering Criminating, &c., Questions.

With the subject of cross-examination is connected that of the privilege of the witness to decline to answer certain classes of questions which more usually come to be asked at that stage of examination.

Questions the Answer to which may Criminate. The principle is well established that a witness may refuse and cannot be required to answer a question the answer to which may tend to criminate him; or, as it is expressed by Greenleaf,¹ "have a tendency to expose him to a penal liability, or to any kind of punishment, or to a criminal charge;" or even, in the language of Chief Justice Marshall,² form a link in the "chain of testimony which is necessary to convict an individual of a crime." The privilege is held to be one personal to the witness which he may avail himself of or not as he sees fit,³ and it is further held that it is the duty of the court, if the witness declines or hesitates to answer, to determine whether the question has the supposed effect and instruct him as to the exercise of the privilege.⁴ If it is exercised, no legal inference as to the truth of the matter which was the subject of the inquiry is permitted to be drawn.⁵

1. 1 Evidence, § 451. And see Manual, 84.

2. 1 Burr's Trial, 244.

3. In a case in G. O. 48, Dept. of the South, 1869, where the question—"Were you under the influence of liquor at this time," addressed to a witness, was objected to by a member on the ground that the answer might criminate, and ruled out by the court, the Reviewing Officer, (Gen. Terry,) in disapproving this action, remarks:—"The question is one of undoubted propriety and competency, as tending to show the right or degree of credibility to be attached to the testimony of the witness. It in no wise tended to implicate him in the commission of any offence, military or civil, nor could the answer in any manner, direct or indirect, tend to degrade his character. Moreover, questions of the character indicated, are not subject to objection by a member of the court, the judge advocate, or by the accused. The right to answer or not as he pleases, is the *privilege of the witness*, and concerns neither the court nor any of its members. This privilege may be waived or asserted in the witness' discretion; and the duty of the court is fulfilled when it informs him of his right and leaves him free to exercise his discretion in the premises."

4. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 451; Com. v. Shaw, 4 Cush. 594.

5. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 451, and cases cited in note.

As to the effect of the provision of Sec. 860, Rev. Sts., upon the exercise of this right, see Opin., At. Gen., of October 27, 1883, in case of *et Hackett*.

The privilege cannot, of course, be claimed where the criminal liability has ceased;—as where the witness has been finally for the offence referred to in the question;¹ or prosecution the same has been barred by the statute of limitations.² can it be claimed on the cross-examination where the witness has voluntarily testified without objection as to the subject of question on the examination-in-chief.³

In military cases the principle has, properly, been recognized where the answer to the question might subject the witness either to a *military* or a *civil* prosecution.⁴

Other Questions. The privilege under consideration can be asserted where the question is such that the answer merely subjects the witness to a civil action or a pecuniary liability;⁵ nor can it be asserted though the answer, (while not incriminating,) will tend directly to degrade or disgrace the witness unless indeed the question relate to some matter wholly collateral and irrelevant to the issue.⁷ If indeed the question, (having tendency to disgrace the witness,) refer to a fact which can properly be proved only by documentary evidence,—as the fact of criminal conviction, or of an imprisonment or other ignominious punishment as the result of a conviction,—it is not competent for the *special* reason that such fact can legally be established only by the record.⁸ There is also another important limita-

1. See G. O. 29, Army of the Potomac, 1864.

2. *Roberts v. Allatt*, 1 Mood. & Malk. 192; *U. S. v. Smith*, 41 123; *People v. Mather*, 4 Wend. 255.

3. *People v. Freshour*, 55 Cal. 375. Nor does the protection extend to the case of an *accomplice* voluntarily testifying for the prosecution. That the *accused*, when on the stand as a witness, cannot claim the privilege *as to the offence for which he is on trial*—see Wharton, Cr. § 432.

4. *Lieut. Kennon's Trial*, p. 29, 41, 43; G. O. 48, Dept. of the S. 1860. See also *Capt. Barron's Trial*, p. 84, 98, where the rule was applied to a case of a witness who was actually under charges growing out of the same transaction, (as that which had given rise to the charge against the accused,) and was soon to be tried.

5. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 452; Manual, 84.

6. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 454.

7. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 455; *U. S. v. White*, 5 Cranch C. 73.

8. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 457. The subject of such questions has been regulated by special provisions in the British law. See Rules of Procedure, Manual, 89.

the asking of questions that may disgrace the witness—viz. that they must be questions which, relating to comparatively recent transactions, go to his present credit as a veracious and reliable person: if they do not directly affect his credit *as a witness*, they are not properly admissible.¹

5. *Impeaching Testimony.*

The credit of a witness who has been examined in chief is subject to be impeached, not only by counter evidence from the other side as well as by facts brought out in his cross-examination, but also by testimony bearing directly upon his *personal veracity*. This, which is that commonly intended by the term "impeaching testimony," is either particular or general, being (1) testimony that the witness has made specific statements out of court contrary to what he has testified on the stand; or (2) testimony attacking his general reputation as a truthful person.

Testimony as to Contradictory Statements of the Witness. Such testimony is competent only in respect to matters which are relevant and material to the charge. To properly prepare the way for such testimony, the established procedure is, not to ask the witness, on the cross-examination, not in general terms whether he has not made a different statement, or different statements, but whether he did not on a certain occasion make a certain diverse statement, (specifying it,) to a certain person named: this, in order that he may better remember what he has said on the subject out of court, and be afforded an opportunity to correct or explain his testimony as given—a practice clearly in the interest of truth and justice.² This rule has been

1. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 458, 459; U. S. v. Van Sickle, 2 McLean, 219; Davis v. Forrest, 2 Cranch C. 23; U. S. v. Masters, 4 Id. 479.

2. The Queen's Case, 2 Brod. & Bing. 313; 1 Greenl. Ev. § 462. Conrad v. Griffey, 16 Howard, 46, McLean J. says:—"This rule is founded upon common sense, and is essential to protect the character of a witness. His memory is refreshed by the necessary inquiries, which enable him to explain the statements referred to, and show they were made under a mistake, or that there was no discrepancy between them and his testimony." And see McKinney v. Neil, 1 McLean, 540; U. S. Dickinson, 2 Id., 325. In the latter case it was held that it is not proper to call, in the first instance, another witness, and ask him if the witness intended to be impeached has not made a contradictory statement. The latter must first be asked, on the cross-examination, whether he has not made such previous statement, and if he replies in the negative, the

recognized in military cases.¹ Where the previous statement of the witness was in *writing*, and contained in a letter or paper, it is not considered competent to ask him whether he has written a certain thing, stating its substance or character; the proper practice is to put the paper into his hands, or at least to exhibit to him the material portion of it, and to then ask whether or not he wrote it.²

That the party calling the witness cannot *confirm* his original statement, (after it has been impeached by evidence of his having made a different one,) by showing that he has at other times made statements to the *same* effect as that originally given under oath—appears to be established by the weight of authority.³

Testimony Impeaching the General Reputation for Truth of the Witness. This is the most familiar form of impeaching the credit of witnesses; a party being always permitted to impeach the testimony of a witness to the merits, introduced by the adverse party, by evidence impugning his character for veracity.⁴ But this evidence must be *general*—must relate to the *general reputation* of the witness as a truthful person, at the time of his testifying;⁵ for, as it is well settled, evidence of particular

impeaching witness may subsequently be called and interrogated as to the fact. It is to be noticed that the species of evidence under consideration is admitted for purposes of impeachment purely, not for proof of the previous statements. Thus in *The Elvira*, Gilpin, 60, the Court hold that—"A previous and contradictory statement of a witness may be given in evidence to impeach his credit, but not as proof of the truth of the statement formerly stated." Or, in other words, (p. 61,)—"You cannot substitute the other account in place of that which you have discredited, making it thus the evidence of the cause."

1. See G. O. 31, Dept. of Dakota, 1869.

2. See 1 Greenl. Ev. § 463, 465; *Murphy v. May*, 9 Bush, 33. In *C. M. O.* 40 of 1880, the credibility of a witness was held properly impeached by the production of the record of a court of inquiry containing a different statement made by him as a witness under oath.

3. See *Ellicott v. Pearl*, 10 Peters, 439, remarks of Story J.; *V. v. Ware*, 8 Greenl. 42; *Hurd v. State*, 44 Miss. 731; *People v. Do* 48 Cal. 85. *Contra*, see *U. S. v. Neversen*, 1 Mackey, 153.

4. An accused party taking the stand as a witness may be impeached like any other witness. *Wharton, Cr. Ev.* § 433.

5. *People v. Haynes*, 38 How. Pr. 369. The object of the testimony is to ascertain the reputation for veracity of the witness *at the time of the trial*, but it may extend over a reasonable time previous, and to different places when the domicile of the witness has been changed. *Hamilton v. People*, 29 Mich. 173.

deceits, falsehoods, false conduct, &c., of the witness is wholly inadmissible.¹ The impeaching witnesses are not called to communicate their personal knowledge in regard to his speaking or not speaking the truth,² or their own estimate or opinion of him as a vicious person or the reverse,³ but his reputation or character for truth among his neighbors or those with whom he is chiefly conversant.⁴ And this—what his reputation is—they must know of their own knowledge;⁵ it is not sufficient for them to state what they have heard others say as to such reputation.⁶ And ordinarily the impeaching witnesses should properly themselves come from the neighborhood, place of residence, military station, &c., and the witnesses, though it is not necessary that they should have a personal acquaintance with him.⁷

1. "The examination must be confined to his general reputation, and he is not to be permitted as to particular facts; for every man is supposed to be capable of supporting the one, but it is not likely that he should be prepared to answer the other without notice." 1 Greenl. Ev. § 461. And *Teese v. Huntingdon*, 23 Howard, 2; *Wike v. Lightner*, 11 Sergt. & Rawle, 198; *Wilson v. State*, 16 Ind. 392; *Taylor v. Com.*, 3 Bush, 3; *Lieut. Hyder's Trial*, 157.

2. Nor—according to the weight of authority in this country—is it admissible to inquire, either as to the moral character of the witness generally, or as to particular immoral or criminal acts on his part. *Teese v. Huntingdon*, *ante*; *U. S. v. Vansickle*, 2 McLean, 219. Thus it has been held that it cannot be asked, for the purpose of impeaching a female witness, whether she was not a prostitute. *Spears v. Forrest*, 15 Vt. 435; *Wright v. Churchill*, 11 Met. 538; *U. S. v. Dickinson*, 2 McLean, 329. 3. Evidence that he was a deserter from the army has been held not to be admissible to impeach the character for veracity of a witness in a criminal court. *Foley v. People*, 22 Mich. 227. That "proof of a conviction or sentence for desertion, or other military crime," does not affect the credibility of a witness by impeaching his veracity"—see *G. M. O.* 45, Dept. of Cal., 1883.

4. *People v. Methvin*, 53 Cal. 68.

5. *Kimmel v. Kimmel*, 3 Sergt. & Rawle, 336.

6. *Douglass v. Tousey*, 2 Wend. 354; *Teese v. Huntingdon*, *ante*; *Kimmel v. Kimmel*, *ante*; *Wight v. Lightner*, *ante*; *G. C. M. O.* 128, Dept. of Dakota, 1882.

7. "That knowledge of character which is gained from report cannot be considered as *secondary*, for report constitutes character." *Gibson v. Kimmel v. Kimmel*, *ante*.

8. *Kimmel v. Kimmel*, *ante*; *Vernon v. Tucker*, 30 Md. 456. Such evidence would be mere *hearsay*. *Douglass v. Tousey*, *ante*.

9. *Kimmel v. Kimmel*, *ante*. "There is danger from the proneness often observable in witnesses to substitute their own opinion for that of the public, whose judgment cannot be so readily warped by prejudice

Procedure. The most approved *form* of the direct examination of an impeaching witness is simply to ask him if he has the general reputation of the adverse witness for veracity; if he answers in the affirmative, to ask him further to state what that reputation is.² In the English and in some of the American courts the practice has been to allow the further question, whether, knowing such reputation, he would believe the adverse witness under oath. But this question, though sometimes permitted to be asked upon military trials, is one which seems not to be suggested by the weight of authority in this country,³ inasmuch as it calls for the individual estimate of the witness—a thing avoided in this proceeding, and invites an answer liable to be influenced by personal hostility or prejudice.⁴

The impeaching witness having given unfavorable testimony remains subject to be *cross-examined* by the other party as to the means and sources of his knowledge. He is generally called upon to specify the particular individuals whom he has heard speak unfavorably of the character for truth of the witness attacked, to be impeached, and may be interrogated as to the grounds upon which they based their opinions.⁵ The adverse party may then impeach the impeaching witnesses, or—as is oftener the

or feeling as that of an individual; and hence the policy of not requiring any intimate degree of knowledge respecting the person him or of bringing the witness too close to the scene." *Id.* (Gibson J.)

1. "General reputation for veracity," (or "truth," or "truthfulness," or "veracity;") not "general reputation"—without qualification. *W. Young*, 31 Wisc. 574. "Reputation" is a better word than "character." *Knode v. Williamson*, 17 Wallace, 586.

2. Or the two questions may be consolidated—"Do you know the general reputation for veracity, and if so what is it?"

3. See 1 Greenl. Ev. § 461; *Teese v. Huntingdon*, *ante*; *Phillips v. Kingsfield*, 19 Maine, 375; *People v. Methvin*, 53 Cal. 68; *People v. Perez*, 56 Cal. 533.

4. See *Phillips v. Kingsfield*, *ante*.

5. "On the cross-examination, the inquiry may extend to the opportunity for knowing the character of the other witness, for he has a time and how generally the unfavorable reports have prevailed from what persons he has heard them." *Phillips v. Kingsfield*. The impeaching witness may be asked, on cross-examination, not the *names* of the persons whose statements have made up the reputation to which he has testified, but *what they said*. *A. People*, 13 Mich. 11. And see *Bates v. Barber*, 4 Cush. 107; 11 Ev. § 461.

may support the general character for veracity of his own final witness by testimony showing it to be good.¹

6. *Testimony as to Character.*

Admissibility of in Defence, on Criminal Prosecutions.

It may be regarded as settled law that evidence of good general character, as possessed prior to the commission of the alleged offence, may be introduced by the accused as part of his defence, provided the character shown is of such a nature that it may properly weigh with the jury in determining the issue involved in the case. Whether the evidence be deemed admissible as pertinent to the question of criminal intent,² or as sustaining the original presumption of innocence,³ or as a fact going to show that it is unlikely that the accused could have committed the crime and thus contributing to a reasonable doubt upon the whole case,—it is in general admitted if it be in any degree apposite to the species of criminality charged. Thus while a general reputation as a moral well-conducted person and law-abiding citizen would be admissible in evidence upon criminal trials in general, a character for peaceableness would not be apposite to a defence in a case of larceny, though it might be entirely apposite under an indictment for violent homicide.⁵

Evidence as to character is sometimes referred to as especially significant in *doubtful* cases; but, where otherwise admissible, either the nature of the offence nor of the proof can properly affect its competency.⁶

1. See 1 Greenl. Ev. § 461; Manual, 90. In *Bunnell v. Butler*, 23 Conn. 65, it is held that the court "may, in its discretion, limit the number of impeaching witnesses," and that "the proper exercise of such discretion is no ground of error. And in this case the number was limited to six on each side. In *People v. Murray*, 41 Cal. 66, it was held that error to have limited the impeaching witnesses to eight.

2. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 54, note; 3 Id. § 26.

3. 1 Bishop, C. P. § 1112; Manual, 64.

4. See Wharton, Cr. Ev. § 57. It is deemed to have more force where the proof is circumstantial than where it is direct and positive. *S. v. Babcock*, 3 Dillon, 620.

5. See 2 Russell, 784; 1 Greenl. Ev. § 55; 3 Id. § 25; Wharton, Cr. Ev. § 60; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 1113; *Cathcart v. Com.*, 37 Pa. St. 108. In *People v. Garbutt*, 17 Mich. 9, a case of homicide, evidence that the accused, when in the army, was reputed a good and brave soldier was held inadmissible.

6. Wharton, Cr. Ev. § 66; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 1115.

It must be evidence of *general* character or reputation.¹ Particular acts of good conduct are not admissible.²

This testimony is admitted subject, like any other, to cross examination.³ It may also be rebutted by evidence of bad character; but such evidence cannot include particular acts or conduct but must be as general as that to which it replies.⁴

It is settled law, however, that the general character of the accused cannot be attacked until he has himself first introduced evidence to sustain it, or—in the language of Wharton⁵—“unless the defendant puts his character in issue, the prosecution cannot call witnesses to impeach it.”

It is also well settled that the fact that the accused offers his defence, no evidence in support of his general character, furnish in law no unfavorable influence or impression against him—can afford no presumption, however weak, either “that he is guilty of the offence charged, or that his character is bad.”

In military cases. At military law, evidence of character which is always admissible,⁷ is comparatively seldom of

1. “In view of the fact that ‘the best character is generally that which is the least talked about,’ the courts have found it necessary to permit witnesses to give *negative* evidence on the subject, and to state that ‘never heard anything *against*’ the character of the person on whose behalf they have been called.” Wharton, Cr. Ev. § 58.

2. Wharton, Cr. Ev. § 60; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 1117.

3. In a case in G. C. M. O. 66 of 1875, a witness for the defence, having testified that the character of the accused was good, was asked, on cross examination, by the judge advocate—“Whom have you heard give evidence of a good character?” To this question an objection was made and was sustained by the court. *Held* by the Secretary of War the objection “should have been overruled.”

4. “Particular good or bad acts * * * cannot be shown in proof or rebuttal of good character.” 1 Bishop, C. P. § 1117.

5. Cr. Ev. § 64. And see this principle recognized in G. O. Dept. of the Mo., 1863; Do. 11, Dept. of the Susquehanna, 1864; Do. 65, Div. of the Atlantic, 1864; Do. 29, First Mil. Dist., 1867; Do. Dept. of the South, 1870; Do. 52, Dept. of the Platte, 1871; G. O. 58, Dept. of Texas, 1872; Do. 10, Id., 1882; DIGEST, 254-5.

6. Wharton, Cr. Ev. § 62. And see 1 Bishop, C. P. § 1119; F. C. Bodine, 1 Denio, 282.

7. While in the American and the British military practice evidence of character and record is introduced by the accused, in the French the Government puts in the military history, (*état des services*), of the accused at the beginning of every trial. See, for example, Le I Bazaine, Moniteur edition, Paris, 1873, page 3.

ently or exclusively *in defence*; but, when introduced, is usually added partly or principally, *as in mitigation of the punishment* which may follow upon conviction. With this view it is presented not only in connection with a plea of "guilty," but as a cautionary measure where the plea is "not guilty," and both where the sentence is discretionary and where it is mandatory. When offered, it is not subject to the rules which restrain the form and quality of such testimony when defensive merely. It should have no reference to the nature of the charge, but may exhibit the reputation or record of the accused in the service, for efficiency, fidelity, subordination, temperance, courage, or any of his traits or habits that go to make the good officer or soldier. It also need not be limited to *general* character, but may include particular acts of good conduct, bravery, &c. It may also be either oral or written; consisting, if the latter, of testimonials from superior officers, recommendations for promotion, honorable mention in orders, certificates of merit, warrants as non-commissioned officers, honorable discharges, &c., of which the originals or copies should be appended to the record of trial. Such evidence, in the event of conviction, may avail to lessen the measure of punishment if the same be discretionary with the court; if mandatory it may form the basis of a recommendation by the court members and a mitigation or pardon by the reviewing officer. So much a matter of course is the admissibility of evidence of good character on a military trial, that, where the same exists, the accused should be allowed all reasonable facilities for obtaining it: where it cannot be procured without too considerable delay or other embarrassment to the service, the fact of its existence and its substance will in general properly be formally admitted of record, by the prosecution.

IV. TESTIMONY BY DEPOSITION.

Article 91. The written military law in regard to Depositions comprised in the present 91st Article of war—originally s. 27, 75, Act of March 3, 1863—as follows: "*The depositions of witnesses residing beyond the limits of the State, Territory, or district which any military court may be ordered to sit, if taken on reasonable notice to the opposite party and duly authenticated, may be used in evidence before such court in cases not capital.*" The effect of this statute is deemed to be, not merely to indicate when depositions shall be admissible as evidence, but to *entitle* parties

to the depositions, of witnesses when their personal testimony cannot practicably, or without too great a delay or expense, be obtained.

Construction of the Article—“*The depositions of witnesses.*” In the earlier provision on this subject—Art. ; the code of 1806—the term “witnesses” was qualified by words, “not in the line or staff of the army,” and practice included civilians only.¹ The present Article, containing such qualification, is held to authorize the admission in evidence of depositions of military as well as civil persons, and such been its construction in practice. When officers or soldiers stationed at remote points where their services cannot well be dispensed with, their evidence is commonly obtained by deposition; and this course is also in general pursued where the testimony of officials at Washington, (as chiefs of the staff corps required at distant trials.²

“*Residing beyond the limits of the State,*” &c. Article, in providing for the admission of depositions taken under certain specified conditions, must be regarded as excluding those where these conditions do not exist.³ Thus depositions of persons residing *within* the limits indicated are not admissible,⁴ cannot be read in evidence, *though the parties may consent and the court acquiesce.*⁵ The term “residing,” as applied to military persons on the active list, is ordinarily to be construed as equivalent to *stationed* or *on duty*.

1. It is remarked on Gen. Pillow's Court of Inquiry, p. 375, that the provision of 1806 was restricted to *civil* persons because such could (then) legally be required, (as now by Sec. 1202, Rev. Sts.,) to act as witnesses before courts-martial.

It may be noted that in the earliest provision on this subject—the original of the present Article in our law, *viz.* a Resolution of Congress of Nov. 16, 1779, there is no such restriction, the statute providing in general terms—“That in cases not capital in trials by court-martial depositions may be given in evidence,” &c. 3 Jour. Cong., 392.

2. DIGEST, 74, 484. That the Article authorizes the admission of a deposition of a witness residing in a *foreign* country, see DIGEST,

3. See II Opins. At. Gen., 344; Gilchrist, 24.

4. DIGEST, 74; G. O. 32, Dept. of Cal., 1866; G. C. M. O. 102, D. of the East, 1871; Do. 1, Div. of the South, 1875.

5. DIGEST, 74.

If taken on reasonable notice to the opposite party."

at shall be "reasonable notice" is not indicated by law or relation,¹ nor has the practice established any general rule on subject. The period should depend mainly on the nature importance of the case, the extent and materiality of the imony sought, the situation of the opposite party, the existing us whether of peace, war, or other emergency, &c. In gen-, all that the notice is really needed for is to afford the party icient time within which, (in consultation with his counsel e has any,) to examine the interrogatories, note objections, desired,) and prepare cross-interrogatories. For this a few s will ordinarily be a "reasonable" period.

he notice may be given, under the Article, at any time after issuing of the order convening the court at a certain place ad; for till the order is made it cannot be determined whether particular witness whose deposition is proposed to be taken a person "residing beyond the limits of the State, &c., in ch the court is ordered to sit," and therefore one whose depo- n can legally be "read in evidence" in the case. The notice r thus be given, (and the deposition, if there is time, be taken,) r to the assembling and organization of the court. In prac-, the taking of depositions is not unfrequently initiated before arraignment; and it is sometimes resorted to at a much later e. Where, pending the trial, a deposition is desired to be ined, the court will, if necessary, properly grant a continu- e to await the arrival of the testimony.

deposition taken without notice, or without reasonable no- should, if objected to, be ruled out as inadmissible.² A dep-

The only statute in which a period of notice has been prescribed the Resolution of Dec. 24, 1779, (3 Journals, 415,) where it was e to depend on the distance between the residence of the witness that of the opposite party, with a view to enable him to be present, represented, at the examination. In the present practice it is most that either party is thus present or represented. See *post*—"Pro- ure."

In a peculiar case published in G. C. M. O. 9 of 1879, it was held he Judge Advocate General that a certain deposition was inadmissi- as taken without notice, the witness being a person who, without the currence of the opposite party, had been substituted for the original ed deponent. See DIGEST, 75. In a case in G. C. M. O. 45, of the Pacific & Dept. of Cal., in which a deposition was objected taken without notice, it was remarked by the reviewing authority a statement, added by the judge advocate at the end of the Inter-

osition taken without notice is indeed no more than an *ex parte* affidavit; and affidavits, or statements of persons not subjected to cross-examination, are of course incompetent as evidence before courts-martial.¹

The objection, however, to a notice as *not reasonable* would properly come from the adverse party rather than from the court. Such party may, if he see fit, (the requirement as to notice being for his benefit,) *waive* any objection that he might make on the ground of insufficient notice, and upon such waiver the deposition, (if otherwise in conformity with the Article,) will be admissible in evidence.

"And duly authenticated." The earlier statutes, from the Resolution of Dec. 24, 1779, to Art. 74 of 1806, provided that the deposition should be taken "before some justice of the peace." The present Article not designating any person as proper to act as commissioner, it is clear that any official who, by the laws of the United States,² or of the State, &c., is authorized to administer oaths, may qualify the witness and authenticate, by his oaths

interrogatories, that the prisoner had no cross-interrogatories to ask, was in proof of notice, being merely an *ex parte* declaration.

1. It has been repeatedly so held in Orders. See G. C. M. O. 33, 1873; Do. 133, Dept. of the Mo., 1871; G. O. 21, Id., 1863; Do. 19, Dept. of Ark., 1866; Do. 19, Third Mil. Dist., 1867; Do. 49, Dept. of Dakota, 1871; Do. 165, Id., 1882. In a case in G. C. M. O. 37, Dept. of the East, 1870, where the court admitted in evidence the affidavit of a witness sick at the post, instead of adjourning to his quarters to take his testimony, its action was disapproved by the reviewing authority. In G. C. M. O. 19, Dept. of Texas, 1873, a letter from a post adjutant introduced in evidence, was held improperly admitted, being, though official, a mere *ex parte* statement. In G. C. M. O. 84, Dept. of the Mo., 1882, certain *ex parte* statements, contained in a record of a board of survey, were held improperly admitted in evidence upon a trial by court-martial.

Affidavits, however, have sometimes been admitted by the court in the absence of objection by a party. On Maj. Gen. Arnold's trial, (1779)—the most marked instance met with by the author—they were admitted freely on both sides. See pp. 20, 37, 55, 63, 77. But, notwithstanding the consent of the parties, a court-martial could rarely with safety receive evidence of this character, which must in general be too incomplete to serve as a reliable basis either for its own judgment or the action of the reviewing officer.

2. If, indeed, he is ignorant, the court, on perceiving no indication in the deposition papers, that due notice was given, may and should advise him as to his right to object.

3. See Sec. 863, Rev. Sts.

signature, and seal if he has one, the deposition.¹ Where the business of procuring a deposition to be taken is committed to a particular officer of the army, he will properly, by an official certificate to that effect, further authenticate the deposition as duly taken.²

"May be read in evidence." This does not mean that the entire deposition as taken shall necessarily be admitted in evidence, but that it shall be admitted subject to such objections as immateriality, irrelevancy, &c., as may have been noted or may be raised upon its being read, to the questions or answers. In other words it is to be read and received subject to the same exceptions as would be the oral testimony for which it is a substitute.

A deposition should not be rejected for a mere *informality*. If complete—if it contains the entire testimony, under oath or affirmation, of the witness, in response to all the material interrogatories—it should be admitted.³

The party by whom the deposition was initiated has no right to withhold it merely because the testimony given is not favorable to such as was expected. Nor can he introduce only such parts as are favorable or useful to him, omitting the rest. He must offer it as a whole or not at all. And if *he* does not offer it, the other party may do so if he chooses: if neither offers it, it is not read and forms no part of the proceedings,⁴ unless possibly the court may require the same for its information or the elucidation of the case.

"In cases not capital." Defining "capital" as *punishable capitally*,⁵ it results from this limitation that depositions cannot be read in evidence in cases of spies, of deserters (or of officers or soldiers advising or persuading desertion) in time of *war*, or of

1. DIGEST, 74; Lieut. Kennon's Trial, (Navy,) p. 16.

2. See *post*—"Procedure."

3. Fuller v. Rice, 4 Gray, 343.

4. See Pelamourges v. Clark, 9 Iowa, 2; Wheeler v. Smith, 13 Id., 54; Nash v. State, 2 Greene, 287; DIGEST, 74.

5. See DIGEST, 42; Imperial Dictionary—"Capital." This is the sense uniformly ascribed, in this treatise, to the word as used in the articles generally, and this is the sense attributed to it in the practice of the service.

persons charged with any of the offences specified in Article 22, 23, 39, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 56, and 57, or in Art. 58 w made capital by the local law. This limitation is regarded absolute, and it is held that a deposition cannot legally be introduced in evidence in a capital case by either party, even if other party waives objection to its admission.¹

Procedure. In the absence in the military law of any provisions, (such as those in the statutes of the United States² of the several States,) regulating the taking and using of depositions, the military procedure in this respect has not been uniform and the depositions themselves have usually been inartificially made up.

A deposition may be taken—as sometimes in civil cases—both parties appearing, personally or by counsel, before a commissioner, and propounding questions to the witness. This course however, is rarely pursued in military cases.

In general, in such cases, the taking of a deposition is initiated substantially in one of the two following forms:

1. The party desiring the testimony of a certain distant witness, whose personal attendance cannot, as it has been ascertained, well be secured, serves upon the opposite party a notice in writing, to the effect that the deposition of the witness will be taken at a certain time and place and by a certain officer or person named,³ or—as it is more commonly expressed—by such officer or person and at such time and place as shall be designated by the proper superior authority, upon the Interrogatories annexed to the notice and such Cross-Interrogatories as the party notified may present; and desiring him to serve a copy of the same upon the party giving the notice within a reasonable time. The party notified transmits in due time to the other party a draft of his Cross-Interrogatories, (with his objections, if he desires to note any at this stage, to the Interrogatories,) and the original party, (similarly, if he sees fit, noting his objections to the Cross-Interrogatories,) thereupon duly forwards the whole to the person who is to take the deposition, or to the proper military

1. II Opins. At. Gen., 344; DIGEST, 74.

2. See Rev. Sts., Secs. 803-870.

3. An officer of the army is in general to be preferred, since, if a civil commissioner is employed, an indebtedness for fees will ordinarily be incurred.

hority to be disposed of according to his orders. Objections and not be thus noted, but may, and generally are, left to be decided at the trial. The original party, before forwarding, may *re-direct* Interrogatories, (serving a copy on the opposite party,) if he thinks it desirable.

2. Or, as if by far the preferable mode where practicable to opt it, the parties—the accused and judge advocate—enter into and subscribe a written *STIPULATION*,¹ by which it is agreed that the deposition of the witness shall be made and forwarded by him directly, or shall be taken by a particular officer mentioned or an officer to be designated for the purpose by the proper superior,—upon certain annexed Interrogatories agreed upon by the parties jointly, (or Interrogatories and Cross-Interrogatories contributed by them respectively where they cannot thus agree,) subject to such objections either to questions or answers as either party may properly raise before the court.

The Stipulation is itself evidence of “reasonable notice” given, and is a waiver of any irregularities that may have attended the proceeding. It may well include an agreement that the deposition when returned shall first be opened by the president of the court in the presence of the court and the parties.* The stipulation, with the appended Interrogatories, should be forwarded to the judge advocate, either to the witness directly, or to the officer named, or to the Commander for his action—according to the agreement of the parties.

Where the Interrogatories have been forwarded to the witness directly, he will proceed to make in writing under oath³ his answers thereto, and will thereupon return the whole to the president of the court, or other officer or person as stipulated or requested. Where the witness is *an officer of the army*, the forwarding of the Interrogatories thus directly, with a view to his picking up and returning the deposition similarly directly, may often be the preferable course of proceeding. The usual practice, however, is both to forward and return through the proper military headquarters.

1. See form in Appendix.

2. See *post*.

3. Witnesses, in making their depositions, have sometimes sworn to the same at the end, *i. e.* after all the answers have been given. The regular course is to be sworn at the beginning, as other witnesses are sworn under Art. 92.

Where the Interrogatories have been forwarded directly, or through military channels, to an officer or other person, as a commissioner or agent to take or cause to be made the deposition, such officer will proceed to meet or communicate with the witness as soon as practicable, and to take or procure in writing his sworn answers *seriatim* to the interrogatories as propounded by the parties or party. These, being signed and duly certified and sworn to, are, with such documents or other writings as may have been called for from the witness or referred to in his answers, appended to the Interrogatories, and the Deposition thus made up, being authenticated by the certificate of the officer, &c., as duly taken, is, together with the order or orders, if any, exhibiting the authority of the officer, forwarded by mail or otherwise to the headquarters of the proper commander for transmission to the court, or directly to the president of the same or to a party in the case, as may have been stipulated or directed.

The deposition, it may be remarked, whether returned directly or through military channels, is properly transmitted or delivered to the president of the court rather than to the judge advocate, the latter being commonly a *party* to the proceeding. The deposition, to whomever forwarded, should properly be *first opened in court and in the presence of both parties.*¹ When opened it may be rendered to the party at whose instance it was taken, (if not already in his possession as originally transmitted to him,) or to the judge advocate, to be "read in evidence."

V. THE CREDIBILITY AND WEIGHT OF ORAL TESTIMONY.

In addition to what has been remarked on this subject under the foregoing Titles, there may further be noted certain legal rulings and practical considerations, as of value to the court in estimating the abstract importance and relative force of testimony in connection with its Finding.

The Testimony of Accomplices. While the testimony of an accomplice, if believed, may be sufficient, though unsupported, to warrant a conviction, it is agreed by the authorities that, as a general rule, such testimony cannot safely be accepted.

¹ It has been held a fatal objection to a deposition that it was opened out of court. Beale v. Thompson, 8 Cranch, 70. Such objection, however, may be waived by the interested party, and the deposition admitted in evidence in the discretion of the court.

equate for such purpose unless corroborated by reliable evidence.¹ It need not indeed be confirmed as to all its parts: if confirmed as to some material and important points, it may in general be credited as to others.² It is held, however, that the corroboration must certainly extend to the *identity*, (where that question,) of the person of the accused.³

Testimony Impeaching or Affecting Credit. Even where character for veracity of a witness is shown to be bad, his testimony is not necessarily to be altogether disregarded, but is considered in connection with the rest of the evidence, and credit given to it as it may be found justly entitled to.⁴

Where a witness is shown to have testified falsely as to a particular, the maxim *falsus in uno falsus in omnibus* is not necessarily to be applied, nor is all his testimony necessarily to be disregarded. The presumption against his general veracity indeed be strong where the false statement relates to some matter as to which he can scarcely be liable to mistake; still though the falsity may be such as to discredit him in general, it does not follow that some portions of his testimony may not be

truthful and disingenuousness in witnesses are, as has been remarked in practice, not unfrequently indicated by their avoidance of particularization in their testimony. "Fabricators," says Wharton,⁶ "deal usually with generalities, avoiding circumstantial references which may be likely to bring their statements into collision with other evidence; and hence it is prop-

1 Greenl. Ev. § 380; Wharton, Cr. Ev. § 441; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 361; U. S. v. Kessler, Baldwin, 22; U. S. v. Lancaster, 2 McLean, 431; U. S. v. Troax, 3 Id. 224; Steinham v. U. S., 2 Paine, 168; U. S. v. Jones and Smith, 2 Bond, 311, 323; U. S. v. Babcock, 3 Dillon, 619; U. S. v. 14, Dept. of Dakota, 1868. That the rule in regard to accomplices does not apply to *informers*, see 1 Greenl. Ev. § 382; U. S. v. Person, 3 McLean, 53, 299.

U. S. v. Kessler, *ante*.

See Wharton, Cr. Ev. § 442.

State v. Miller, 53 Iowa, 209.

Wharton, Cr. Ev. § 380; The Santissima Trinidad, 7 Wheaton, 419; Hall v. Renfro, 3 Met. (Ky.) 51; State v. Brantley, 63 No. Ca. 114; Shellabarger v. Nafus, 15 Kans. 547.

Cr. Ev. § 379. On the other hand, an over-minute specification of details, especially as to remote events or unimportant matters, does not destroy the credit of a witness but rather the reverse. *Id.*; O'Brien, 219.

erly held that a studied avoidance of details, by witnesses, throws suspicion on their statements. This however," it is added, "depends upon the object to be recalled ;" it being not to "events of remote date," but to "matters which the witness, under ordinary circumstances, would remember," that the test most "fairly applies."

The testimony of a witness should not be regarded as impeached by the fact that his statement differs from those of other witnesses as to the secondary details of an occurrence, nor by the fact that others who were present did not hear or see what he states to have been said or done.¹ Discrepancies as to minor matters rather tend to sustain the credit of witnesses, as indicating the absence of concert.* And the perceptive powers, as well as the capacities and opportunities for observation, of witnesses, are so diverse that it is quite possible and natural that acts or words sworn to by one witness should have escaped the notice of another present at the same time and place.

Affirmative and Negative Testimony. As remarked by the U. S. Supreme Court in an adjudged case :²—"It is a rule of evidence that, ordinarily, a witness who testifies to an affirmative fact is entitled to credit in preference to one who testifies to a negative, because the latter may have forgotten what actually occurred, whereas it is impossible to remember what never existed." Again the negative witness may not have "forgotten," but may simply have failed to perceive what has really occurred in his presence or near him. Of two equally honest witnesses, the one from a superior faculty of discernment, or a superior opportunity for informing himself, or both, may have become cognizant of facts to which he can testify affirmatively, while the other, when interrogated as to the same matter, can only reply that he did not see or hear, or does not know, &c. ; yet each will be a truthful witness. A witness may also have been mentally preoccupied

¹ Reg. v. Hammons, 2 Tenn. 137.

² See Simmons § 680 ; O'Brien, 221.

³ See 1. Hurdscopers, 17 Wallace, 384 ; Wharton, Cr. Ev. § 382. The testimony of a series of witnesses, for instance, that they never saw a man drunk, does not outweigh the testimony of others to the fact of his drunkenness on particular occasions, unless those speaking to the negative cover the same point of time as those speaking to the affirmative. Wharton, Cr. Ev. § 382, citing Murphy v. People, 90 Ill.

the time of the occurrence in question; or, for fear of involving himself or otherwise, he may have been unwilling to take notice of what was passing: in such cases also his testimony may be true, though of a negative character and of inferior relative weight.

Testimony of the Accused. In a case of importance in which the accused takes the stand as a witness in his own behalf, it may be embarrassing to determine exactly how far he is to be believed. His credibility will be subject to question oftener perhaps for the reason that it is not natural to expect an uncolored statement from a person charged with crime, than for the reason he is believed to have wilfully stated what is false. His testimony will always be fair material for a rigid cross-examination, as it has been observed by the U. S. Supreme Court, "a larger latitude is undoubtedly allowable in the cross-examination of a party who places himself on the stand than in that of other witnesses."¹ How successfully he may endure this test is a circumstance which will be most material in measuring his credibility;² but probably the safest general rule to apply to his testimony as a whole—at least where a *prima facie* case has already been made out against him by the prosecution—will be that no credit should not be given to his statements except in so far as they are corroborated by unprejudiced witnesses or reliable written testimony.

Number of Witnesses. The relative number of the witnesses for the prosecution and the defence, though a material circumstance where the number on one side very considerably exceeds on the other, is by no means decisive in general. The relative weight of testimony depends much less upon the number of witnesses than upon the quality of their statements. Evidence is valuable according as it is the expression of such con-

Rea v. Missouri, 17 Wallace, 542.

Some inference may perhaps also be drawn from the manner in which his *direct* examination is conducted. Thus where a party "was induced as a witness in his own behalf, yet his counsel forbore to interrogate him" as to certain conduct charged against him and especially material in the case, it was held that "the natural and irresistible inference from this omission was that the party was conscious of the truth of his charge and was too honest to deny it if he had been examined concerning it." *McCall v. McDowell*, Dearly, 243.

comitants as superior intelligence, capacity of appreciation of observation, and opportunity for acquiring knowledge single witness in whose case these incidents concur will outweigh several less well qualified and informed witnesses.

Manner of the Witness. That the manner of the witness on the stand—his appearance, demeanor, style of expression, &c.—is proper to be considered in connection with his testimony as adding to or detracting from his credibility. The manner of a witness, as a point frequently noticed by the authorities, is a point frequently noticed by the authorities. Where, for example, the bearing of a witness is such as to indicate that he is simply making a statement of the facts within his knowledge and observation uninfluenced by interest or passion, his testimony will carry very considerably more weight than where it is apparently colored by resentment or passion. Where, unconsciously perhaps to himself, he speaks as an advocate of the side on which he is called. So a reluctant and cautious witness, or a "willing" or "fast" one, is in general to be credited than one whose evidence is neither calculated to be impressive nor impulsive, who is frank without being florid. So too a cold and self-possessed witness will ordinarily make a better impression than an agitated or confused one. At the same time it is not questionable that a perfectly reliable and truthful witness may not unfrequently fail to do himself justice from natural nervousness or a lack of fluency, and that diffidence and hesitancy on the stand are as often characteristics of an honest as of a dishonest witness.³

1. See *Sibley v. Ins. Co.*, 9 Bissell, 31; *Taylor v. Harwood*, 1 Dec. 437; *Randolph v. Lane*, 57 Ind. 115; *McCrum v. Corby*, 117; G. C. M. O. 3, Dept. of the Mo., 1884; DIGEST, 254. Witnesses cannot be treated as units, to be divested of their own disclaims to credit. It may well happen that one intelligent and witness may outweigh several who are ignorant or unreliable should it be forgotten that one witness, corroborated by facts or omissions, may outweigh a multitude whose testimony may have been the result of imperfect observation, or have been influenced by prejudice. So it may happen that the evidence of a witness who is entirely uncorroborated may be such as properly to outweigh that of another whose statements are corroborated. *Canada v. Curry*, 73 Ind. 246.

2. *U. S. Cole*, 5 McLean, 514; *Dickenson v. Gore*, Newberry; *Callanan v. Shaw*, 24 Iowa, 441; *Stokes v. Mowatt*, 1 U. S. L. 325; *Tyler*, 262; *Simmons* § 573; *Kennedy*, 173-5; *Napier*, 1 Hart, 150; G. C. M. O. 19 of 1885—Opinion of At. Gen. Brewster.

3. "Equally truthful men often speak in very different ways."

court-martial, by reason of the superior education and intelligence of its members, is a species of jury peculiarly qualified for the discriminations and comparisons necessary to be made in estimating the relative weight and credibility of oral testimonies.'

IV. WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

This subject will be considered under the Titles of—I. Public Writings; II. Private Writings.

I. PUBLIC WRITINGS.

These may be divided into—1. Judicial Records; 2. Other Public Documents.

Judicial Records—*Records of civil tribunals.* Records of courts of the United States or of the States will rarely be required to be offered in evidence on military trials. Occasion, however, may occur for such evidence;—as where a soldier, to prove a charge of desertion, has to show that he has been confined in arrest by the civil authorities for some crime or disorder, or sentenced therefor by a civil court to a term of imprisonment; or the prosecution in a case of desertion has to prove a sentence and confinement, as evidence of the existence of a manifest impediment'' excepting the case from the operation of 103d Article of war;² or where an officer or soldier charged before a court-martial, in time of war, with one of the offences specified in Art. 58, has to offer in support of a plea of former acquittal, (under Art. 102,) the record of his acquittal or conviction by a civil tribunal having concurrent jurisdiction of the crime;³ or

same transaction, one with perfect confidence and the other with doubt and hesitation. One will say—'It was,' and the other—'I think so.' A jury is bound by neither statement, but may credit either.

* * It does not follow that a jury must credit the former in preference to the latter.' *Muscott v. Stubbs*, 24 Kansas 520, 522.

Upon the subject of the credibility of witnesses *Dillon, J.*, in *Ex v. Babcock*, 3 Dillon, 619-620, expresses himself as follows:—The degree of credit due to a witness should be determined by his character and conduct; by his manner upon the stand; his relation to controversy and to the parties; his hopes and fears; his bias or impartiality; the reasonableness or otherwise of the statements he makes; strength or weakness of his recollection viewed in the light of all other testimony, facts and circumstances in the case. And see *Chamberger v. Ins. Co.*, 4 Bissell, 265.

See DIGEST, 87; *In re Davison*, 4 Fed. Rep. 507.

See Chapter XVI—"Plea of Former Trial;" DIGEST, 27.

where it may be material, (as in rare cases it has been,) to evidence a judgment of divorce, or a decree of a probate granting letters of administration.

When thus required, the records of judgments, &c., of the United States, (in the absence of the originals which rarely be attainable,) may be proved by copies under the seal of the court attested by the clerk. Judgments and judicial proceedings of State courts of general jurisdiction are proved by copies attested by the clerk and certified by the judge, as prescribed in Sec. 905, Rev. Sts.¹ Judgments, &c., of municipal courts of limited judicial authority such as those of justices of the peace, of whose proceedings a formal record is required by law to be kept, may be proved by copies authenticated, so far as may be practicable, in the manner prescribed by the same statute. In the absence of a formal record, such judgments, &c., may be proved by the book containing the minutes, produced and attested by the justice or other proper custodian as a witness, or by a copy of the minutes authenticated according to the local law or custom, or, if there has been no minute or written entry made of the proceedings, by the testimony of the justice or other "competent person."²

These forms of proof, adopted in civil proceedings, should be observed in military cases, unless the parties, by stipulation to admit the existence and substance of the record desired to be shown, may dispense with the usual formalities.

1. As to judgments of courts of *foreign* countries, these, says Chief Justice Marshall in *Church v. Hubbard*, 2 Cranch, 238, are to be authenticated—"1. By an exemplification under the great seal; 2. By a copy proved to be a true copy," (by a witness who has compared it with the original. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 514;) "3. By the certificate of an officer authorized by law, which certificate must itself be properly authenticated." These," he adds, "are the usual and appear to be the most proper, not the only, modes of verifying foreign judgments. If they be beyond the reach of the party, other testimony inferior in its nature may be received." And see 1 Greenl. Ev. § 514; *Buttrick v. Allen*, 83 273; *Lincoln v. Rattle*, 6 Wend. 475. If a foreign judgment proposed to be offered in evidence before a military court, it would be desirable to procure to be appended to the record a certificate of an American consul, attesting the genuineness of the signature of the attesting judge or clerk, and stating that the authentication was in the form adopted for copies of records of the particular court. The judgment might then properly be admitted without further evidence. See *And v. Hill*, 7 Cow. 434.

2. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 513.

Records of military tribunals. These, not being posed or held in the office of any court or by any *judicial* authority, but being simply preserved in the War Department, or the headquarters of military commands, are, as respects the mode of proving the same by authenticated copies, not judicial records but executive documents. They will therefore be included under the following head.

2. Public Documents. This second species of public writings consists, mainly, of the acts of the legislative and executive departments of government in their collective capacities, and of the official acts of the separate public functionaries, as contained in official books and papers forming the records of public transactions. These may therefore be divided into: (1) Legislative acts and acts of State; such as Acts and Resolutions of Congress, Congressional debates and proceedings; Executive proclamations, orders, communications to Congress, and other acts; (2) Treaties; (2) Official books and papers.

1. Legislative acts and acts of State. The public Statutes—Acts and Resolutions¹—of Congress are proved as follows: enacted prior to December 1st, 1873, they are proved by the Revised Statutes, which comprise a single Act of Congress of June 22, 1874, (originally published in one volume in 1875, and which a Second Edition, that now in use, was published in 1880,) and constitute a revision and consolidation of all the existing public laws, (as contained in the previous seventeen volumes "Statutes at Large,") in force on said Dec. 1, 1873,² with a

"Resolutions" are no less statutes than "Acts." Originally—the Continental Congress—all enactments were designated as Resolutions. Under the Constitution, Resolutions were first resorted to mainly for the requesting, authorizing, or directing of things to be done by executive officials of the government, the regulation of minor details of public expenditure, &c. Later, they have not unfrequently contained legislation on subjects of general importance capable of being briefly disposed of. They are now designated in their titles as "Joint Resolutions," and in their publication are classed as "Public" and "Private" Resolutions; the latter, with the "Private Acts," comprising the legislation for the relief or benefit of individuals.

¹ The authority for the original revision of the statutes, and for the publication of the same, as also for the preparation and publication of a new edition, is contained in the Acts of June 27, 1866, June 20, 1874, and March 2, 1877. See Appendix to Revised Statutes, pp. 1089–1092. Compare *Wright v. U. S.*, 15 Ct. Cl. 80.

very few designated exceptions.¹ If enacted since Dec. 1, 1873, public statutes are proved, either by the single volume designated as the "Supplement to the Revised Statutes,"² made, by the Joint Resolution of June 7, 1880, "*prima facie* evidence of the laws therein contained;" or by the separate publications or volumes issued under the direction of the Secretary of State,³ according to the provisions of the Act of June 20, 1874, and made by said Act "legal evidence of the laws and treaties therein contained."

Private statutes are proved by the printed copies of the Private Acts and Resolutions as first collected in Vol. 6 of the Statutes at Large, and further contained in each volume of the Statutes from the 9th to the volume last published.

The public treaties are proved from the Volume containing treaties in force, required to be compiled and published by section 5 of the Act of June 20, 1874; and, as to those of later date, by the printed copies of the same published at the end of the volume of Statutes at Large from Vol. 18 to the last volume.

Publications of statutes in Orders. As already indicated, military courts may properly take judicial notice, without further evidence, (in the absence of proof that they are incorrectly printed,) of the Acts and Resolutions of Congress relating chiefly to the Army, which are published for its information in printed General Orders issued from the War Department or Headquarters of the Army.

A statute of Congress, not yet published, can only be proved by a copy from the State Department, (where the original is deposited,) authenticated under the seal of the department.

1. These exceptions—*i. e.* the enactments *not repealed* by the Revised Statutes—are specified in Sec. 5596, R. S.

2. The "Supplement" embraces only statutes enacted between 1873 and 1881 inclusive.

3. They are published in "pamphlet" volumes after each session of Congress, and subsequently in bound volumes of Statutes at Large. These volumes, as succeeding the seventeen vols. published up to the date of the Revised Statutes, commence with Vol. 18. The last thus far, (1886,) is Vol. 23.

ate or Territorial statutes are proved by the authorized indications of the same, or by copies authenticated under the of the State, &c., as prescribed in Sec. 905, Rev. Sts.¹

he proceedings and debates of Congress are proved by the publication of the same, as printed by the Public Printer, (or other person with whom a contract for such printing may be authorized by Congress to be made,) according to the provisions of Sec. 78, Rev. Sts., and of the Act of January 22, 1874.² Similar proceedings of the Legislatures of the States or Territories to be proved from the official journals or other authentic indications.

*Executive Proclamations, and Orders of the nature of proclamations,*³ proceeding from the President, are usually issued at the end of the volumes of the Statutes at Large, and to be proved therefrom, or from authenticated copies in the custody of the Secretary of State. Executive messages and communications to Congress, (including those from Heads of Departments,) as well as other State papers ordered by it to be printed, are proved from the Journals and Public Documents published by the authority of Congress.⁴

Other Executive acts. *Pardons*, where the original charter cannot be produced, are shown by authenticated copies from the War Department. *Appointments*, in the absence of the original order or commission, are proved by duly authenticated copy from the proper Department, or certificate of the fact as there recorded. *General Orders*, however, issued from the War Department

¹ See an instance of a State law, published in a pamphlet, held inadmissible in evidence because not properly authenticated—in *Craig v. Owen*, Peters, C. C. 352.

² *Foreign written laws* are authenticated similarly to foreign judgments. (See note *ante*.) But foreign *unwritten* laws, customs and usages may be proved by parol evidence, *viz.* by the testimony of competent persons instructed in or acquainted with the same. See 1 Greenl. Ev. § 488; *Arch v. Hubbart*, 2 Cranch, 237.

³ The proceedings and debates of Congress are at present published by the "Congressional Record," an official publication printed by the Public Printer and issued daily during each session.

⁴ See such "Executive Orders" in 13 Stats. at Large, 775-778.

See *Watkins v. Holman*, 16 Peters, 26; *Bryan v. Forsyth*, 19 Id., 334; *Gregg v. Forsyth*, 24 Id. 179.

or through the Headquarters of the Army, are properly received by military courts as competent evidence of all proclamations and orders of the Executive, or other executive acts, which may be published therein.

Acts of the Executives of the States or Territories are to be proved from authorized publications, or by copies certified by the proper official, or, if matter of public record, in the form prescribed by Sec. 906, Rev. Sts.

2. Official Books and Papers—of the U. S. Executive Departments. These, where material in evidence, are provable either by the *original*, produced and sworn to by the proper official custodian as a witness on the stand;¹ or, where—as is usually the case—the original is not accessible, by *copy*, as provided in Sec. 882, Rev. Sts., as follows:—“*Copies of any books, records, papers, or documents in any of the Executive Departments, authenticated under the seals of such Departments, respectively, shall be admitted in evidence equally with the originals thereof.*”²

As to the *form* of the authentication prescribed by the statute, this, as it is held by the authorities, must be “strictly pursued.” It has however been ruled by the Supreme Court that the signature

1. In *Evanston v. Gunn*, 99 U. S. 660, it was held that the original record made by a member of the U. S. Signal Corps, of the state of the weather and the direction and velocity of the wind, on a certain day, was competent evidence of the facts reported, as being in the nature of an official record kept by a public officer in the discharge of a public duty.

2. It may be noticed here, as applicable generally under the present head, that, independently of statute and “on general principles of law,” a copy given by a public officer, whose duty it is to keep the original, ought to be read in evidence.” Marshall C. J., in *U. S. v. Percheman*, 7 Peters, 85.

It may also be remarked that where an official document (or public record) is *lost or destroyed*, its contents, after proof of the loss or destruction, may be proved by secondary evidence. See 1 Greenl. Ev. § 90.

3. *Smith v. U. S.*, 5 Peters, 302; *U. S. v. Harrill*, McAllister, 20 Pendleton v. U. S., 2 Brock. 75. In the last case, a copy of a letter from the War Department to an army contractor was held inadmissible in evidence because not authenticated as prescribed by statute. On the trial of Capt. John Shaw of the navy, a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Navy to the prosecutor in the case was ruled out on this ground. Printed Trial, p. 34. So, copies of files of the War Department not duly authenticated were held inadmissible on Gen. Dyer's Court of Inquiry, part I, p. 7.

of the Head of the Department is not necessary to complete authentication, the presence of the *seal* alone being required to make the transcript evidence.¹ In the practice indeed of the War Department, the certificate of authentication has in general been attested by the signature of the Secretary of War. This certificate has commonly also been preceded by one signed by the chief of bureau, or other subordinate, who may have the immediate custody of the original, to the effect that the paper, as such, is a true copy of such original in his charge. Such preliminary certificate, however, though convenient as assuring the Secretary that the copy has been correctly made out, is quite immaterial to the legal proof required.

Copy not evidence where original necessary. It may be noted that where the actual execution of a paper by the hand of an officer or soldier is required to be shown, the original must of course be produced in evidence, an authenticated copy not being sufficient. As where, for example, the issue of a paper is charged with having signed a false certificate on a pay roll or other voucher: here the original must be exhibited with proof of handwriting.² An original paper on file in an executive department or office is proved by the person in whose custody it is appearing as a witness on the stand and producing and swearing to the paper as the original.

Publications authorized by statute. Where a document of one of the Departments has been printed and published by the authority of statute, each printed copy is an original and proves itself.³ Such a document is the Army Register, and it has been held by the Supreme Court⁴ that this compilation is evidence of the facts "as the names of officers, date of commissions, promotions, resignations, and regimental rank, brevet and other rank, the department of the army to which officers belong." But it was further held that the Register could not be received as evidence of the pay or emoluments of officers, the organization of the army, or any other matter which was the subject of an

¹ Smith v. U. S., 5 Peters, 300.

² G. C. M. O. 25 of 1875; G. O. 3, Dept. of the N. West, 1863; Do. Dept. of the South, 1864.

³ 1 Greenl. Ev. § 90.

⁴ Wetmore v. U. S., 10 Peters, 652.

express *statute* fixing and defining it. For, as it was declared the statute itself is the best evidence of its provisions, and when these are material to the issue, the court itself must judicially expound them and not accept the construction of executive officials.¹

General Orders, &c. The printed official copies of "General Orders" and "General Court-Martial Orders," published from the War Department or Headquarters of the Army, though not authorized by statute, carry upon their face such evidence of authenticity that they are always admitted as evidence before courts-martial, in lieu of formally authenticated written copies of the originals. In many cases indeed there are no written originals; and in all cases military courts, as has heretofore been remarked, will take judicial notice of the printed forms as genuine and correct. As to the Special Orders emanating from the same sources, while these have a much more restricted scope of publications, they are equally formal and official, and the printed copies, in the absence of any indication that they are not genuine, may safely and properly be admitted in evidence by military courts in the same manner as General Orders.²

The printed General and Special Orders, issued from the Headquarters of Military Divisions and Departments, may properly be regarded as similarly proving themselves and admissible.

A printed General or Special Order, to be admitted as competent evidence, should, strictly, bear the written signature of the Adjutant General, or Assistant Adjutant General, or other staff officer, below the printed word "Official" at the end of the form. This however may be dispensed with in the absence of evidence that it is not an official copy.

Proceedings of military courts. As heretofore noticed, such proceedings are not judicial records but executive documents, and, as to the form and manner of their authentication and proof, are to be classed with the other official papers on file in the Department. The sixth Article of war, entitling persons tried by

¹ *Worcester v. U. S.* 41 M.

² In the case of a Special Order, required or material to be put in evidence, and which has not been printed or published, and exists only as a written document, it is to be proved like any other official paper, unless admitted by consent without proof.

al court-martial to be furnished with copies of the "pro-
 ngs and sentence of such court," does not do away with
 f the forms required to render copies of official papers ad-
 dle in evidence; nor does Art. 121, in authorizing the pro-
 ngs of courts of inquiry to be used as evidence on trials
 e courts-martial, affect the matter of the form of authenti-
 1 of copies as prescribed by Sec. 882, Rev. Sts. On mili-
 rials, however, the parties may stipulate to dispense with
 ill legal form. Thus, where the original cannot be pro-
 l, the copy furnished from the Bureau of Military Justice
 no other authentication than the endorsed attestation of the
 e Advocate General to the effect that the same is a "*true*
 " may be agreed to be admitted without further formality.
 e parties may consent to admit any separate portion of the
 edings or testimony set forth in such copy that may be
 rial. Where indeed the proceedings have been promulgated
 General Order, and some fact, fully appearing in such Or-
 -as the finding, acquittal, sentence, or action of the review-
 uthority,—is alone desired to be proved, the parties may
 stipulate to admit in evidence a copy of the printed Order,
 e authenticity indeed of which the court will properly take
 ial notice.

Official papers of military commands. Such are the
 is of inferior courts,¹ books, official reports, communica-
 and papers, kept on file at the Headquarters of military
 ions and Departments, as also the various Regimental, Com-
 Post and Hospital books, &c., recognized by army regula-
 or military usage. These are not public records in the
 of Sec. 882, Rev. Sts., and the special provision of that
 n in regard to proof by authenticated copy can hardly be
 led as extending to them. Proof of the same therefore
 strictly, be made by the *original*, produced and identified
 e proper custodian appearing on the stand as a witness.
 ilitary trials, however, *copies* of such papers, &c., or of the
 ial entries in such books, attested by the proper commander
 F officer, will in general properly be admitted, by the con-
 f the parties and acquiescence of the court, as competent

ow required, by Act of March 3, 1877, to be retained and filed
 udge Advocate's Office at Department Headquarters.

evidence of their contents, and as such evidence be annexed to or incorporated in the record of the trial.

Where however a paper or book of this class, or indeed any official paper, sets forth acts done, &c., by an officer or soldier signing the same or referred to therein, and such acts, &c., are material evidence, and can be proved by the officer or soldier himself in person as a witness, his testimony, as being the "best evidence" of the facts, should be resorted to instead of the writing.¹ So, where it is proposed to put in evidence on a trial certain facts already deposed to by witnesses before a court-martial board of survey, &c., the witnesses themselves must, if practicable, be introduced to testify anew before the court, the record of the court, board, &c., being secondary evidence and not admissible if the personal testimony can be obtained.²

Official documents and papers of State and Territorial governments. These, if matter of public record, may be proved by copy authenticated as specified in Sec. 906, Rev. Sts.; if not in such manner and form as may be prescribed by the law, sanctioned by the judicial usage, of the State or Territory.

Legal effect, as evidence, of Public Writings. Judicial records, or copies of the same when duly authenticated, are said to import "absolute verity," so that a presumption as nearly as possible conclusive is recognized as arising in favor of their correctness. Acts of State, when authoritatively promulgated, may be said to prove themselves with a conclusiveness parallel to that of judicial acts. Not much less cogent is the presumption which is recognized in favor of public books and records, other than judicial, required by statute to be officially kept. As to other official papers, these furnish not conclusive but *prima facie* evi-

¹ See this point noticed in G. O. 28, Dept. of the South, 1864; Do. Middle Dept., 1865; Do. 32, Dept. of the East, 1869.

² Do. EST. 255-6; G. O. 39, Dept. of the Susquehanna, 1864. By a similar provision, however, of Art. 121, the proceedings of a court-martial may be admitted in evidence upon a trial by court-martial. So, the rule as stated in the text may be departed from in the statement of parties, with the acquiescence of the court; indeed the testimony of a witness, (who has been subjected to cross-examination and investigation, may sometimes constitute not only a convenient but the most desirable form of presenting the facts.

ence only of the facts therein stated,¹—evidence which is more or less strong in proportion to the formality, public consequence, and legal sanction attaching to the writing, but is always subject to be rebutted.

But such papers, whether originals or authenticated copies, are evidence only as to the matter of their contents; however formal and authoritative *per se*, they prove or import nothing beyond themselves. Thus it has been held that the mere production in evidence of a formal written order or notice from the War Department, addressed to an officer, did not afford any legal inference that it was received by him or even mailed to his proper station.² The point is illustrated by the entries of *charges* against soldiers in the report books, muster-rolls, &c., of companies: though these entries are formal acts, they import only that the *charges* have been made, furnishing no evidence whatever as to the commission of the *offences*.³

So, an official certificate is evidence only of facts therein stated which the officer was *authorized* to certify.⁴ And of all official statements, as well as of public records, it is to be remarked *generally* that if they contain matter not within the province or official cognizance of the subscribing officer, they are, as to such matter, *extra-official* and not admissible as evidence.⁵

Restriction on the use in evidence of official documents and papers. As has already been noticed, the documents and papers of the Executive departments and officers of the Government are not in general public records open to inspection by any citizen, but confidential archives in the legal custody of the Head of the Department. And it has uniformly been held

1. *Parish v. U. S.*, 2 Ct. Cl. 341; *Hart v. U. S.*, 15 Id. 414; *Chapman Township v. Herrold*, 58 Pa. St. 106.

2. G. C. M. O. 25 of 1875.

3. DIGEST, 222, 256; G. O. 33, Dept. of the Mo., 1875; G. C. M. O. , Dept. of Texas, 1876; Do. 22, Dept. of the East, 1882. So, in *Hann v. S. Scituate*, 115 Mass. 336, an authenticated copy of an extract from a muster-roll on file in the War Department, in which it was stated that a soldier had deserted, was held not to constitute legal evidence of such desertion, such statement being in fact a *charge* only.

4. *Levy v. Burley*, 2 Sumner, 358, (Story J.) And see *Owings v. Hull*, Peters, 624-6; *U. S. v. Wiggins*, 14 Id. 346; *U. S. v. Delespine*, 15 Id. 226; *White v. Burnley*, 20 Howard, 235.

5. See 1 Greenl. Ev. § 491; *U. S. v. Jones*, 8 Peters, 375, 388; *Wetmore v. U. S.*, 10 Id. 652.

that this official may decline to allow copies of such papers to be made or authenticated for use in evidence before the court when, in his opinion, considerations of public policy or justice render it inexpedient that their contents should be made public. This course, (subject to the provisions of Arts. 114 and 121,) may be pursued with military charges, or records of military investigations, equally as with other official communications and documents.* So, as to official reports and communications addressed to him, or other confidential papers on file at his Headquarters, the Commander of a military Division or Department is properly to be regarded as invested with an authority analogous to that of the Head of the Executive Department whom he represents. The corresponding officials of a State or Territory possess a discretion in this respect similar to that ascribed to the superior federal officers indicated.

II. PRIVATE WRITINGS.

As Testimony in Military Cases. The term "Private Writings," as employed in the works on Evidence, has especial reference to contracts, deeds, and other personal written instruments and obligations. In the military practice, writings of this character are not often required to be put in evidence on trials. It may sometimes indeed be necessary or material to introduce such writings as contracts of enlistment, contracts between officers representing the government and civil contractors, or official bonds of disbursing officers; but these in general will have become part of the official papers of the War or other Executive Department, and so provable by the original or a copy procured therefrom in the manner and form already indicated under the foregoing Title. Upon a charge also of unbecoming conduct or the dishonorable non-payment of a debt, it may be found material to prove the execution of a promissory note, check, or bill of exchange. More commonly, however, the class of private writings which come to be the basis of military charges or are required to

1. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 250, 251, 476; Wharton, Cr. Ev. § 513; Cloke v. M. L., 147-8; and authorities cited in note under the head of "Evidence excluded from considerations of public policy," p. 468, *ante*.

2. See *Home v. Ld. Bentinck*, 5 Brod. & Bing. 130; *Dawkins v. Ld. Paulet*, 5 Q. B. 94; *Dawkins v. Ld. Rokeby*, 8 Id. 255; *Dickson v. Earl of Wilton*, 1 Fost. & Fin. 419. But see XI Opins. At. Gen. 137.

3. See G. O. 25, Dept. of the Mo., 1867.

out in evidence on military trials are communications or statements written or caused to be written by the authors, (or published in newspapers or pamphlets,) containing false charges or disrespectful language, or which are otherwise unauthorized or improper and prejudicial to military discipline. With these may be enumerated, as special instances, written challenges sent or accepted in violation of Art. 26, communications made to an enemy in violation of Art. 46, letters or telegrams sent by offenders to interested persons and illustrating their *intent*, &c.

The general rules already set forth as to the introduction and admission of evidence apply to writings of this class in common with other proofs; and it will be necessary to consider here but a few points, as follows:—

Proof of Genuineness and Identity. The writing produced to be proved must be produced in court and identified by proper witness or witnesses as having been actually sent, received, written, published, &c.¹ If it is a writing specifically referred to in the charges, the paper produced must appear to correspond in terms or substance with that thus set forth or described.² If it be indefinite, obscure, or incomplete *per se*, it may be explained, elucidated, or completed by other testimony. Where expressed in a foreign language, it may be translated by a competent witness. But where it consists of a deliberate legal instrument, as an express contract, it cannot be varied or contradicted by parol evidence.⁴

If the writing produced is a *copy*, it must be shown to be a true transcript by one who has compared it with the original, and the original must be shown to have been genuine and to be lost or destroyed.⁵ Where the fact to be proved is the mere receipt of a *telegram*, the copy identified as that actually received may ordi-

A postmark on a letter is presumptive evidence that it has been mailed. *U. S. v. Noelke*, 17 Blatchford, 555.

See *Stroud v. Springfield*, 28 Texas, 649; *Renn v. Sands*, 33 Texas,

G. C. M. O. 64, Dept. of the Mo., 1881.

¹ *Greenl. Ev.* § 275; *Hunt v. Rousmanier*, 8 Wheaton, 211; *Emery v. Slater*, 22 Howard, 41; *Findley v. Bk. of U. S.*, 2 McLean, 57; *Wible v. Lull*, 3 Id. 272.

McGinnis v. Sawyer, 63 Pa. St. 259; *Krise v. Neason*, 66 Id. 253; *Burg v. Callanan*, 14 Iowa, 251. A copy of a copy is not admissible. *Maurice v. Worden*, 54 Md. 233.

narily be admitted in evidence on a military trial; but if necessary that the original should be proved in order to show that certain form of words was actually sent, or that the message sent was different from the copy received, or was signed by or in the handwriting of the accused or other person, the operator or other proper official must be summoned and required to produce such original, (which is not a privileged communication,) and the same must be clearly identified by his or other testimony.¹

Proof of Handwriting. Where it is necessary to prove that a writing proposed to be put in evidence was written or signed by the accused or other person, and this cannot be shown by the party who wrote or signed it, (as where he was the accused himself,) or by a subscribing witness, (the paper not having been formally witnessed, or the witness being dead or not attainable, the same is properly established either—(1) by the testimony of witnesses having personal knowledge of the handwriting;² or by a comparison of writings, made—in a military case—by the court.

1. By witnesses having knowledge.⁴ Such knowledge it is held, must have been acquired in one of two ways. The witness must (1) either have seen the individual write,¹—and

1. See Wharton, Law of Ev. § 76, 1128; Id., Cr. Ev. § 645; Wood v. Miller, 55 Iowa, 168; DIGEST, 257.

2. If there is a subscribing witness to the paper, he must be called if he can be reached and is legally competent. *Kinney v. Flynn*, 2 R. 310; 1 Greenl. Ev. § 569.

3. "In regard to the term 'handwriting,' we think that it should include, generally, whatever the party has written with his hand, and not merely his common and usual style of chirography." *Shaw C. J.*, Com. v. Webster, 5 Cush. 301.

4. In *Goodhue v. Bartlett*, 5 McLean, 186, it was held, (following *Moody v. Rowell*, 17 Pick. 490,) that it was sufficient for the witness to swear affirmatively as to the handwriting, without stating how he knew it to be that of the party, leaving it to the other side, on cross-examination, to question as to the sources of his knowledge. In practice, however, the witness is generally called upon to state the grounds of his knowledge on the direct examination.

5. *Hopkins v. Simmons*, 1 Cranch, C. 250; U. S. v. Larned, 4 Id. 32; *Hopkins v. Megguire*, 35 Maine, 78; *Lyon v. Lyman*, 9 Conn. 55; *Kellogg v. Lothrop*, 10 Cush. 453; *Bingham v. Peters*, 1 Gray, 145; *Peoples v. Spooner*, 1 Denio, 343; *State v. Allen*, 1 Hawks, 8. "To identify handwriting, the oath of the writer, or his admission if produced against him, is the best evidence; then the testimony of persons who saw the writing."

not essential that he should be familiar with his writing, for evidence is admissible, for what it is worth, if he has seen the party write but once and then only his name;² or (2) he must have seen letters or other writings purporting to be in his handwriting and have been in some manner satisfied that they were written by him,—as by having corresponded with him on the subject of them, or having taken action upon them which he has acquiesced in, or by the fact, known to the witness, of the person himself having otherwise adopted and acted upon such writings in business or official transactions, &c., as his own.³

This, as has already been noticed, is one of the few exceptional cases in which a witness may be permitted to declare his opinion as to the genuineness of a writing or signature. And in arriving at the opinion that the writing or signature in question is or not that of the accused, or other alleged person, "the test of genuineness," as is observed by the court in an English case,³ "ought to be the resemblance, not to the particular of the letters in some other specimen or specimens, but to the general character of writing which is impressed on it as an involuntary and unconscious result of constitution, habit, or other permanent cause, and is therefore itself permanent."

usually written, or of persons who, from a knowledge of the writer, and not having seen him write, are acquainted with his handwriting." 10 Johns. § 1041. But where the knowledge of the handwriting had not been obtained by the witness from seeing the party write his name "for the purpose of showing to the witness his true manner of writing it," and at the commencement of the suit, the evidence was held inadmissible. *Anger v. Searle*, 1 Esp. 15. In *George v. Surrey*, 1 M. & Malk. 516, it was held that the genuineness of a person's *mark* might be testified to by a witness who had seen him make it on several occasions.

1 Greenl. Ev. § 577; 2 Bishop, C. P. § 432 *a*; *Bowman v. Sanborn*, 5 Foster, 110; *Fulton v. Hood*, 34 Penn. 371; *Cross v. People*, 11 Ill. 153; *Simmons* § 1041.

Doe v. Suckermore, 5 Ad. & El. 705; *Hammond's Case*, 2 Greenl. 35; *Page v. Homans*, 2 Shep. 478; *Withee v. Rowe*, 45 Maine, 580; *Man v. Sanborn*, 5 Foster, 110; *Moody v. Rowell*, 17 Pick. 494; *W. v. Webster*, 5 Cush. 295; *Brigham v. Peters*, 1 Gray, 145; *Kinney v. Flynn*, 2 R. I. 319; *Lyon v. Lyman*, 9 Conn. 59; *Titford v. Knott*, 10 Mass. Cas. 211; *Johnson v. Davenport*, 19 Johns. 134; *People v. Doner*, 1 Denio, 344; *Travis v. Brown* 43 Pa. St. 9; *Pope v. Askew*, 10 Me. 20; *McKonkey v. Gaylord*, 1 Jones L. 96; *State v. Allen*, Hawks, 30. Ex. Co. v. Thornton, 41 Miss. 216; 1 Greenl. Ev. § 577; 2 Bishop, § 432 *a*; *Wharton*, Cr. Ev. § 552. It is not essential that the witness should have ever seen the party write or have corresponded with him. *Rogers v. Ritler*, 12 Wallace, 317.

Coleridge J., in *Doe v. Suckermore*, *ante*.

2. By comparison—with other writings in evidence.

The evidence last indicated is, indeed, "in its nature, comparison," the belief of the witness being derived from "comparing the writing in question with its exemplar in his mind derived from some previous knowledge."¹ The *comparison* now to be considered, however, is that which is technically known as *scientific comparison by written "standards."* By the weight of authority in this country, and until recently in England, proof of handwriting by such comparison has not been sanctioned *except* where there are already in the case, as evidence for some other purpose, other writings, proved or admitted to be genuine, of the individual whose handwriting is in question. In such a case the genuineness of the particular writing or signature in dispute has been allowed to be determined or tested by a comparison of the same with such other writings as standards.² Such comparison made by the jury in civil cases, would in military cases of course be made by the court. To assist in the comparison, and in determining of the question of genuineness, the evidence of experts, *pro* and *contra*, may—it is held—be introduced by the parties.³ The expert,—who need have had no previous knowledge of the person's handwriting,⁴—may express his opinion upon such points as whether the signature is genuine or spurious.

1. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 577 ; Travis v. Brown, 43 Pa. St. 9.

2. Moore v. U. S., 91 U. S. 270; U. S. v. Chamberlain, 12 Blatchford 390; Medway v. U. S., 6 Ct. Cl. 421; also 1 Greenl. Ev. § 578; Wharton Cr. Ev. § 556; 2 Bishop, C. P. § 432 *b*, and cases cited.

3. 1. Greenl. Ev. § 578; Wharton, Cr. Ev. § 559, 560; 2 Bishop, C. P. § 432 *c*, and cases cited. The experts usually resorted to appear to have been cashiers, tellers, or clerks of banks; (see Moody v. Rowe, 17 Pick. 490; Lyon v. Lyman, 9 Conn. 59;) or persons employed in banks or public offices to detect forgeries; (see Goodtitle v. Braham, Term, 497; Cooper v. Bockett, 4 Moore P. C. Cas. 433; Doe v. Suckermore, 5 Ad. & El. 703; People v. Spooner, 1 Denio, 344; Lodge v. Phipher, 11 Sergt. & Rawle, 336.) In Goodtitle v. Braham, and King v. Cator, 4 Esp. 117, the expert was an inspector or clerk of the Post Office accustomed to inspect franks for the detection of forgeries. In Cooper v. Bockett, the expert had "been in the habit of examining and comparing writings, and so employed by the Bank of England for eleven years and upwards." In Moody v. Rowell the expert had been a writing teacher "for more than forty years." In Doe v. Suckermore, a "writing engraver" was used as an expert. In the case of Cadet Whitaker, most of the witnesses introduced (on both sides) to assist in the comparison were so-called "professional experts in handwriting."

4. King v. Cator, 4 Esp. 144; Nelson v. Johnson, 18 Ind. 329.

ed,¹ whether the writing of the paper is in a real or feigned
d,² whether the signature and the body of the paper were
tten by the same person, whether the whole of the paper was
tten by the same individual and at the same time,³ whether a
e or amount has been altered by the substitution of one figure
another,⁴ &c.; and he may state in full his reasons for his
elusions.⁵

t appears, however, to be the sentiment of the authorities that
testimony of experts as to handwriting is not in general of
ery satisfactory character. "No great reliance," says Bishop,
ould be placed on their evidence."⁶ Such as it is, however,
allowed to go to the jury, (or, in military cases, to be consid-
l by the court,) for whatever it may be worth.

With any genuine writings. The above exception to the
common-law rule as to proof of handwriting by comparison
recently been extended in England by a statute of 1865,⁷ by

See *King v. Cator*, *ante*; *Withee v. Rowe*, 45 Maine, 519; *People v. Spooner*, 1 Denio, 343.

Lyon v. Lyman, 9 Conn. 55. In *Keith v. Lothrop*, 10 Cush. 455, expert, on comparing the writing in dispute with "acknowledged proved specimens" of the handwriting of the party, gave it as his opinion, that the handwriting of the former was not genuine but artificial—"that it was a simulated, stiff, and imitative hand, and not a free natural one." And see *Moody v. Rowell*, 17 Pick. 495. In *Com. v. Webster*, 5 Cush. 295, it was decided that—"On a criminal trial an expert in handwriting may testify whether, in his opinion, anonymous letters written in a disguised hand, and calculated to divert suspicion from the defendant, are in the defendant's handwriting."

Fulton v. Hood, 34 Pa. St. 370. And see *Goodtitle v. Braham*, 100 Mass. 497; *U. S. v. Darnaud*, 3 Wallace Jr. 183; *Wharton*, Cr. Ev. § 9, 420.

In *Cooper v. Bockett*, 4 Moore P. C. Cas. 433, it was ruled that if one writing crossed another, an expert might testify which, in his opinion, was the first written.

Nelson v. Johnson, 18 Ind. 329.

Keith v. Lothrop, 10 Cush. 455; *Com. v. Webster*, 5 Id. 295; 2 C. P. § 432 c.

2 C. P. § 432 c. And see *Wharton*, Cr. Ev. § 9, 420; *Doe v. Suckre*, 5 Ad. & El. 751; *The Tracy Peerage*, 10 Cl. & Fin. 154; *People v. Spooner*, 1 Denio, 343; *Borland v. Walrath*, 33 Iowa, 130; *Cowan v. L. & McArthur*, 274. On the trial of *Cadet Whittaker*, (*post*), much of the elaborate expert testimony, though illustrated by magnified reproductions and photographic impressions, was fanciful, unsubstantial, and of little value.

"Lord Denman's Act"—28 Vict., c. 18, s. 8.

which the comparison is now allowed to be made with any other writings whatever, although not in the case and in fact quite irrelevant and inadmissible in evidence therein for any other purpose, *provided* they are first shown, to the satisfaction of the court, to be *genuine* writings or signatures of the person whose handwriting is in question.¹ The law—in the absence of any statutory provision—has been similarly held by the courts in several of the United States;—as in Massachusetts,² Maine,³ New Hampshire,⁴ Vermont,⁵ Connecticut,⁶ Ohio,⁷ Pennsylvania,⁸ South Carolina,⁹ and Mississippi.¹⁰ In the majority of the States, however, evidence of this character is still held inadmissible, and a similar view appears to be favored by the U. S. courts. In the leading military case of Cadet Whittaker,¹¹ tried by general court-martial at West Point in 1881, the court, against the objection of the accused, admitted writings of his, not previously in the case but testified to be genuine, as standards of comparison with a disputed writing which was the basis of one of the charges. In an opinion of March 17, 1882, this ruling was held by Atty. Gen. Brewster to be erroneous, as being opposed to the common

1. See *Cobbett v. Kilminster*, 4 Fost. & Fin. 490; *Taylor on Evidence*, 1587; *Wharton, Cr. Ev.* § 555, note; 2 *Bishop, C. P.* § 432 *b*.

2. *Moody v. Rowell*, 17 Pick. 490.

3. *Chandler v. Le Barron*, 45 Maine, 534.

4. *State v. Hastings*, 53 N. H. 452.

5. *Adams v. Field*, 21 Vt. 256; *State v. Ward*, 39 Id. 226.

6. *Lyon v. Lyman*, 9 Conn. 55.

7. *Calkins v. State*, 14 Ohio St. 222; *Bragg v. Colwell*, 19 Id. 407.

8. *Travis v. Brown*, 43 Pa. St. 9.

9. *Robertson v. Miller*, 1 McMull. 120.

10. *Wilson v. Beauchamp*, 50 Miss. 24. So, in a tenth State, Iowa, under a *statute*. *Baker v. Mygatt*, 14 Iowa, 131. And see further, in this connection, 2 *Bishop, C. P.* § 432 *b*; *Wharton, Cr. Ev.* § 557.

11. See cases cited in opinion of Atty. Gen., *post*.

12. See *U. S. v. Craig*, 4 Washington, 729; *Strother v. Lucas*, 6 Peters, 763; *U. S. v. Chamberlain*, 12 Blatchford, 390; *Moore v. U. S.* 91 U. S. 270; *Medway v. U. S.*, 6 Ct. Cl. 429. The precise point, that the evidence in question is inadmissible, is not positively ruled in any of these cases: that such, indeed, would have been held, if necessary, is to be inferred. In *U. S. v. Craig*, however, the court, though recognizing the common-law rule, adds that it "never was well satisfied with the reason" of the same.

13. The proceedings are published in G. C. M. O. 18 of March 22, 18

ctrine, and the sentence advised to be "set aside."¹ This on having been concurred in by the President,² the proceedings and sentence were disapproved accordingly, on the ground of objection alone, and one of the most extended and laborious investigations by court-martial ever held in this country came to naught.

In the opinion of the author this conclusion is not an entirely satisfactory one. The main objections to using, as standards of comparison, writings not already in the case as evidence are, that it is dangerous that the same may be deliberately selected from mass of the correspondence, &c., of the party as the specimen most favorable for the purpose, and may not therefore fairly represent his average handwriting; and further that their introduction may open the door to collateral issues. These objections carry with more force to a comparison by a jury than to one upon a military trial.

A court-martial composed of educated and intelligent officers of the army, representing the functions of both jury and judge, it is believed, safely be trusted, *where other sufficient means wanting*, to depart from the strict common-law rule and itself, in its discretion, of the method authorized by the ancient and enlightened English statute and sanctioned by the decree of a portion of our own courts. In view of the diversity of opinion on the subject, such a court, in allowing itself to be tested, cannot—it is submitted—properly be viewed as taking any action, when the course pursued will apparently work justice while conducing to a more complete investigation of the truth.

Conclusion. In concluding, (as in beginning,) this Chapter, it may be stated, as the view of the author, that while a military court should, in general, as the wisest, safest and fairest proceeding, observe the well-established rules of evidence, yet where the

¹ an incorrect term as applied to action in a military case. *Disapproval* would have been the proper one, and is that used in the Order. See G. C. M. O. 18 of 1882.

² The Attorney General, in his opinion, refers to the conviction in the *Ker's Case* as "illegally obtained." The term is not a proper description of the error of the Court, if it *was* an error, while it might have implied a *disapproval* of the proceedings and sentence, was not such as to affect their *legal validity*.

rule pertaining to a particular subject is unsettled, or where so technical or antiquated as to restrict or embarrass a thorough investigation, the court may and should, in its discretion, adopt such course in regard to the reception and employment of testimony as justice—justice to the United States as well as to the accused—may appear to dictate.

CHAPTER XIX.

THE FINDING.

The Trial having been completed, and the arguments or statements, if any are made, being concluded, the court proceeds—general without any adjournment if the legal hours of session have not elapsed—at once to its Judgment, which consists of the Finding and Sentence.* If indeed the case is one in which considerable evidence has been taken and the judge advocate has not been enabled to bring up his record, the court may at its discretion adjourn to afford him time for the purpose. So in any case of importance, it may properly take an adjournment before entering upon the responsible duty of the Finding. The subject of the Finding will be considered under the heads: I. Mode and Rules of Procedure; II. Forms of Findings; III. Additions to the Finding.

I. MODE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE.

Clearing. The presiding officer forthwith announces that the court will be cleared for deliberation upon its findings; whereupon the counsel, clerks, reporters, guards, witnesses, spectators, and all other persons present, withdraw, leaving only the judge advocate with the court; and the doors are then closed—as indicated in Chapter XVII.

Deliberation. Before voting, the court, if deemed desirable, may have the entire evidence read over to it by the judge advocate from the record. Commonly, however, it is found sufficient

* If, after the evidence, or the evidence of the prosecution, is all in, and the accused escapes from military custody and absconds, the court may proceed to judgment in the usual manner notwithstanding. See Trial by Military Commission of H. H. Dodd, Indiana, 1864; and compare *Ex parte* v. State, 7 Ohio, 180; *McCorkle v. State*, 14 Ind. 39; *State v. Mire*, 16 Id. 357.

to refer to the different portions of the testimony from time to time, as the members may desire to refresh their recollection to particular facts.

Prior to the voting, discussion as to the merits of the case sometimes engaged in by the members, but as such discussion at this point, may perhaps exert an undesirable influence upon the views of the junior members, it is in general the preferable course in order that all opinions may be as independent as possible, to reserve debate till the taking of a *vote* shall disclose differences necessary to be harmonized before a legal finding can be arrived at.¹

When discussion is had, it may be informal, but should be frank and open.² Here, as in all other deliberations of the court, the principle of the perfect equality of the members should be observed, and a junior officer in rank or age be conceded the same right to declare his views as a senior. So, whatever opinions or views are expressed should be expressed to all—laid before the court. As is remarked by Bishop³ with regard to jurors—"they do not spontaneously agree, they should confer together, each speaking in the hearing of all, not in clusters of two or three privately. Each should give due weight to the opinions of the others, but not concur in that to which he cannot bring his own judgment to consent."

Adjournment Pending Deliberation. In case of a pointed difference of opinion—as where, there being an even number of members, the vote upon a charge or specification is found to be a tie—a more extended deliberation may be considered desirable and in such a case the court may adjourn and separate, to allow an interval for rest and reflection, or to enable the judge advocate or members to consult legal authorities or military precedents. Upon such an adjournment the members should not of course allow themselves to converse with or receive communications from other officers or persons in reference to the case under investigation. Making a personal communication to a *jurymen* "is an indictable offence when such communication touches the subject matter of the trial, or it may be treated as a contempt of

1. See McNaghten, 115, and *post* under "Provision of Art. 95."

2. See Tytler, 311; Kennedy, 182; Macomb, 58; De Hart, 174.

3. 1 C. P. § 998 a.

urt." So, "it is a misdemeanor in a juryman knowingly to
mit such communications."

Disagreement. A deliberation need not of course be con-
ued where, after repeated votes or comparison of views, the
ference is found to be *irreconcilable*. In such a case the court,
lieu of coming to a formal finding, can only enter upon the
ord the fact that they are wholly unable to agree, and thus
minate the proceeding subject to the action of the reviewing
hority.

Recalling Witnesses. It is held by Simmons³ that the court,
ring its final deliberation, may, to assist its conclusions, "re-
l a witness for the purpose of putting any particular question
med essential." He adds—"The parties must necessarily be
sent, and cannot be refused permission to cross-examine or
examine the witness to the extent of the question proposed by
e court. The prisoner moreover must have the fullest oppor-
ity of meeting the evidence." This view is repeated by some
sequent writers.⁴ Such course, however, has been most rarely
rsued in our practice, and would now, if resorted to, be re-
ded as an exceptional irregularity. It need hardly be remarked
ut the material evidence in the case should, properly, be so
ly and clearly set forth in the record of that part of the trial
which it was introduced as to render such a proceeding quite
necessary.

The Voting. This may be *viva voce*, but is commonly and
preferably conducted by written, unsigned, ballots. The votes—
ually collected by the judge advocate—are taken, first upon the
cification and then upon the charge, or, when there are sev-
l specifications, upon the same in order beginning with the
st, and lastly upon the charge. Where there are several charges,
e same proceeding is had as to each of the charges and its speci-
ation or specifications, separately, in the order of their number.

The Finding to be Complete. In military law a *general*
dict, (on all the charges, &c., together,) cannot properly be

. Wharton, C. P. & P. § 729. And see 1 Bishop, C. P. § 996.

. Wharton, C. P. & P. § 721.

. Courts-Martial § 613.

O'Brien, 264; De Hart, 174.

rendered ; there must be, in fact and of record, a separate and independent formal finding upon each specification and each charge.¹ And where exceptions and substitutions are made,² the accused must be acquitted or convicted on every part—every averment and particular—of each specification and charge. “The verdict,” says Bishop,⁴ “should be a complete finding in due form upon the whole issue and all the issues.” Such a finding indeed is necessary not only to perfect the judgment, but to protect the accused against a second trial for any of the offenses set forth in the pleadings.

Where the charge is a *joint* one, there must similarly be separate and distinct votings and findings as to each of the joint accused.

Provision of Art. 95. It is provided by the 95th Article of War that—“*Members of a court-martial, in giving their votes shall begin with the youngest in commission.*” Accordingly the judge advocate, in taking a vote, calls first upon the junior member, then upon the next senior, and so on to the president. This provision—one of the oldest in our military law⁵—was enacted no doubt upon the theory that the voting would be *viva voce* and open, and the reason which has been assigned for it is that the junior members, if required to vote first, will be less liable to be influenced by the opinions of their seniors. Where however the voting, as it more usually is at this stage, is by written ballot, the reason of the statute scarcely applies: it is rather as to the voting upon interlocutory questions that the rule is important to be observed.

Every Member Must Vote. All the members must join in the finding upon every charge and specification. A failure to vote would be a neglect of the duty impliedly enjoined by the order detailing the member upon the court, and also a violation in substance of his oath in which he swore ‘well and truly to

1. Simmons § 620; Kennedy, 185.

2. See *post*—“Partial Findings.”

3. That the findings must “*exhaust*” the specifications and charges, see McNaghten, 195; O’Brien, 264; De Hart, 180; DIGEST, 262, 263.

4. 1 C. P. § 1004.

5. It appears in the Code of Articles of James II, (1688.)

determine; and would thus constitute a military offence within the description of Art. 62.¹

The Finding Must be According to the Evidence. The votes of the members must be based upon and governed by the testimony in the case considered in connection with the plea.² Each member swears to "well and truly try and determine *according to the evidence*," and if he allows his vote to be controlled by what is known to himself or communicated to him by another member, but not in evidence,³ or by his personal notions, prejudices or feelings, he is chargeable with a dereliction of duty. He should also take into consideration *all* the testimony, for he is at liberty to disregard the statements of any witness not seriously impeached or shown to have perjured himself.⁴ And, in so doing, he may measure the relative weight and credibility of the witnesses not only by the substance and quality of their evidence but by their appearance and manner on the stand under the direct and the cross examination.⁵

While all matter of legal *excuse* will justly affect the findings, quite otherwise with matter of *extenuation*.⁶ Such matter legitimately be considered only in connection with the *sentence*, (where the punishment is discretionary,) or as a basis for a recommendation to clemency; or more properly by the reviewing authority in taking action upon the proceedings.

The court cannot in general properly base its finding, in the

Clode, M. L., 150. Further, the *accused* is entitled to have each member vote. Griffiths, 167-8.

Simmons § 625; Kennedy, 184; O'Brien, 241, 263; DIGEST, 262.

"Statements by one juror to the rest of what he knows of the case should not be made or received, and if acted on they will furnish ground for a new trial." 1 Bishop, C. P. § 998 *a*. "The juror may take that general knowledge which any man may bring to the subject, if he has a particular knowledge," (as of an expert or *quasi* expert witness.) "he ought to be sworn and examined as a witness." Rex v. Osborn, 7 C. & P. 648. That a court-martial may not allow its verdict to be influenced by facts within the knowledge of individual members, but not in evidence, see G. O. 21, Dept. of the Ohio, 1866; 20, Dept. of the South, 1866; G. C. M. O. 41, Dept. of Texas, 1874; 3, Dept. of Arizona, 1874; DIGEST, 68.

Evans v. George, 80 Ills. 51.

DIGEST, 266. And see Chapter XVIII—"Number of Witnesses,"—"Manner of the Witness," and notes.

G. O. 4 of 1843—remarks of Hon. J. C. Spencer, Secretary of War.

absence of testimony, upon admissions of the accused in his statement; the same not being evidence.¹

Chance or Compromise Verdict. The voting must consist in an expression of the individual opinions of the members. A resort to *casting lots*, or other expedient by which the judgment is determined by *chance*, is grossly irregular, and, where known to have occurred, would properly induce a disapproval of the finding.² So, a "compromise verdict" is objectionable and improper, except where the result of an honest modification of individual views, and the expression of a matured opinion.³ The effect of compromise however is a point more apposite to the subject of the *sentence* than to that of the finding.

Majority Rule. Upon the finding, as elsewhere in the proceedings, the result is determined by a majority of the votes. For example, three members of a court of five vote Guilty on a charge or specification, the accused is legally convicted thereon. If—there being an even number of members—the vote is a tie, the accused is strictly neither convicted nor acquitted; but as he is certainly not convicted, the vote inures to his benefit and is equivalent to an acquittal, and the finding is entered on the record as Not Guilty.⁴

In capital cases. It has sometimes been supposed that a finding of Guilty of an offence for which the death penalty was prescribed must, to be valid, be made by a two-thirds vote, but this is a misconception.⁵ The 96th Article of war—the only law on the subject—simply requires a concurrence of two thirds of the members to sustain a death *sentence*. In the case of the *finding* a majority governs whatever be the character of the *sentence*.

1. See G. C. M. O. 179, Dept. of Dakota, 1883.

2. See Delafons, 148. In the civil procedure, "any device by which the verdict is in any degree determined by chance is illegal and renders it void." 1 Bishop, C. P., 998*a*. Such a finding is in general ground for ordering a new trial. Wharton, C. P. & P. § 732, 842.

3. Compare Wharton, C. P. & P. § 842.

4. Simmons § 616; Hughes, 85; Prendergast, 210; De Hart, 180; Coppée, 83; G. C. M. O. 17 of 1871; Do. 1 of 1872; Do. 38, Dept. of the Platte, 1868; DIGEST, 266, 479. To the same effect was the maxim of the Roman law—"Paribus sententis reus absolvitur."

5. DIGEST, 78-9.

ority being equally sufficient to sustain a capital sentence imposing a slight penalty.

ation of Finding. A finding once made may be a subsequent session of the court before the final conclusion of the proceedings in the case. For example, where the court has made a finding of conviction, has adjourned before taking effect of the sentence, it may, on reassembling, decide to reconsider its finding and may thereupon change it constituting an acquittal for a conviction or *vice versa*,¹⁾ or in any part.

finding an Act of the Court—Protest. In the finding finally made and recorded, whatever they may be and all may be the majority by which they were arrived at acts as a *unit*. In law the finding is its act, not the act of the members.² So, neither the majority, nor any member can protest against a finding after it has been made by a majority vote. No protest can be permitted to be made on the record; nor can a member or members address a protest to the commanding general or other superior without being chargeable with a grave irregularity.³ As where the president of a court-martial added to the declaration to the effect that he disagreed with the finding of Guilty, stating his reasons,—his action was disapproved by the reviewing commander.⁴

keeping the Votes. There existed at one time some difference of opinion among the authorities as to whether or not ballots cast by the members of the court, in voting on a finding, (or sentence,) should be preserved or some permanent record of the same retained.⁵ The better conclusion is that, in view of the provisions of Arts. 84 and 85

use of a substitution of a conviction for an acquittal cited in

ly, 205; De Hart, 187.

ns § 469; Hough, (P.) 703; G. O. 19, Dept. of the Carolinas, 400.

I. O. 24, Dept. of the Platte, 1875.

favoring the preserving of the votes, (or an abstract of the votes,) 224; 1 McArthur, 323; Delafons, 274; De Hart, 177; 1000 1000 § 614; Kennedy, 237; Griffiths, 176; Benét, 127.

against the disclosure of the votes and opinions of the members it is preferable to destroy the ballots, since otherwise they might fall into the hands of improper persons.¹ A further and sufficient reason for this course is that they are *no part of the record* of the court. It is therefore the duty neither of the court nor the judge advocate to retain them, and the court could scarcely require the judge advocate to preserve them or a minute of them. The almost universal practice is now believed to be to destroy them at the conclusion of the proceedings with the other waste paper made on the trial.

The Findings Must be Certain. That is to say they must have no uncertain meaning but must be intelligible and exact. This will be illustrated in treating presently of the various allowable *forms* of finding.

The Findings Must be Consistent and Harmonious. That is to say the finding on the charge must be responsive to that on the specification or specifications,² and the findings on both must be consistent and in harmony with each other; else they will be legally defective and will not support a sentence. Incongruous findings in general defeat each other—as will also be illustrated under the next head.

II. FORMS OF FINDINGS.

Finding of Guilty or Not Guilty. The simplest and most usual form of military verdict is where the accused is found "Guilty" or "Not Guilty" of both the charge and the specification. Here the findings are consistent and harmonious, and the finding on the charge is supported by that on the specification.

1. Simmons § 614. Kennedy, who was Judge Advocate General of the Bombay Army, writes, (p. 237, —) "For my own part, from the first to the last general court-martial at which I officiated as judge advocate, I made it a point, as soon as the proceedings were confirmed, to destroy carefully the votes and opinions of the members."

2. Compare 1 Bishop, C. P. § 1005.

3. 1 Bishop, C. P. § 1005.

4. See DIERST, 447, 448.

5. In the naval practice, the form of convicting is to find "Proved." See, for example, the recent case of Medical Director Wales, in G. C. M. O. 21, Navy Dept., 1885. As to the finding in the navy of "not proved" or "not proven," see *post*.

is is also the case where there are several specifications of the charge, and the accused is found Guilty or Not Guilty of the specifications and similarly of the charge. If many specifications there may be to a charge, such as any one, (which is properly pleaded and apposite) is sufficient to support a similar finding on the whole like a conviction on one good count of an indictment to support a sentence.¹

Not Guilty, (or Guilty without criminality,) of the whole or of all the specifications where there are several, or any one of the charge, is an inconsistent and incongruous finding on the specification or specifications of the charge of support,—leaves it wholly without substantial support, finding of Guilty upon it is a nullity in law.²

On the other hand, to find Guilty of the specification, but Not Guilty of the charge, may be a good and legal verdict. If the facts set forth in the specification do not agree with the circumstances as developed by the evidence, or the military offence indicated by the charge. But if the specification is properly drawn, and the facts as averred are found, constitute such offence,—to find Guilty of the specification but Not Guilty of the charge is erroneous and such a finding will not support a sentence.³

By the plea. A familiar form of finding, (or rather the finding,) upon a charge or specification, where the same as the plea, is by *confirming*, as it is expressed. But this form has no further or other effect than a finding of Guilty or Not Guilty as the case may be, and its use is derived from employing it.⁴

By the acquittal. Where the accused is found Not Guilty of the charge or charges, it is usual to add in terms that

47, 448.

52; G. O. 60, 107, Army of the Potomac, 1861; Do. 95, 53, Dept. of the East, 1865; Do. 6, Dept. of Cal., 1865; the Gulf, 1873.

52.

that the court "confirm the plea of the prisoner," (with the effect that they find him Guilty or Not Guilty,) is expressed by the reviewing authority in a case in G. O. 43, 1871.

he is *acquitted*. This is indeed unnecessary since the findings made fully acquit the party in law;¹ but the form is now so well recognized that to omit it in any case would be exceptional and invidious.

Guilty without Criminality. Usage has given sanction to a form of finding, on a *specification*, of 'Guilty but without criminality,' or 'attaching no criminality;' or in terms to such effect. It is principally resorted to where the accused is found to have committed the acts or done the things alleged in the *specification*, but without the guilty intent or knowledge essential to constitute the military offence charged. Such finding will of course properly be accompanied by a finding of Not Guilty of the *charge*, unless indeed there be in the case some other specification upon which an unqualified finding of Guilty has been arrived at. The finding, however, is not one to be encouraged. It is virtually a form of acquittal,³ being a determination that the accused is not guilty in law. It will therefore be more legally accurate, as well as more military and more just to the accused, to express in record the finding simply as "Not Guilty."

Not Proven. This refinement, derived from the Scotch law, though at one time somewhat resorted to, is no longer sanctioned in either the English or American military practice.⁴ While, as a substitute for "Not Guilty," this form may in some cases express more nearly than the latter the actual opinion of the court, yet lacks the directness and conclusiveness desirable to be attached to the judgments of a court-martial, and, because of its ambiguity, can hardly fail to have a sinister and injurious effect upon the

1. See McNaghten, 159.

2. A more exact form would be that they "find the facts set forth but attach no criminality thereto." G. O. 11 of 1851; G. C. M. O. 69, Dept. of the Mo., 1869.

3. Circ., No. 4, Dept. of Pa., 1865. This form of finding has sometimes been resorted to where the accused has been found to have been insane or mentally deficient at the time of the offence. See instances in G. O. 13, Northern Dept., 1864; Do. 52, Dept. of the Gulf, 1862; Do. 40, Dept. of the Susquehanna, 1864. Properly, in such cases, the accused should be acquitted—the *ground* of the acquittal being specified, and the proceedings should be suspended, without making any finding as indicated in Chapter XX—"Where the accused is insane."

4. Kennedy, 105; Simmons § 625; Griffiths, 76; Bombay R., 3; O'Brien, 267; De Hart, 182; Benét, 133; Coppeé, 83.

of the accused. It is also objectionable as counter-legal principle that a man is to be held to be innocent only proved, *i. e.* proved beyond a reasonable doubt, to This finding is, however, in common use in the tice.¹

Finding. This term implies a much more consideration than does the term "partial verdict" in the civil

The different kinds of partial findings recognized law are as follows:—

ing with Exceptions—In Specifications. Where trial determines that the accused is guilty of a specific; not precisely as laid, that is to say is guilty of a part the remainder, or is guilty of the substance of the enaction but not of certain details, it may, and it is its convicting him thereon, to except specifically from the Guilty such portions as are not proved, and thus deact measure of the criminality deemed to be established, it may find him Guilty of the facts set forth in the averments, and Not Guilty of those set forth in the averments; or it may find him Guilty of the specific a whole except only as to certain designated words, articles, quantities, or other matters of description set in.⁴ Having thus shaped its finding on the specifying to the proof, it may find the accused Guilty of the provided of course there is enough left in the specification the charge. If so much has been excepted as not to which to constitute the specific offence alleged, (or a minor ally included in it,) or if the effect of the exception cause the specification to describe another and quite

Commander Mackenzie's Trial; also current G. C. M. O., *passim*. A variation of this form, not unfrequently adopted, proved in part," (specifying what part;) or "Proved except" s or allegations, (specifying the same.)

Bishop, C. P. § 1009.

GEST, 262, 263; De Hart, 181; O'Brien, 264; G. O. 59, Potomac, 1861; Do. 34, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1867; 870; G. C. M. O. 59, Dept. of Texas, 1872. This form of was adopted in the British law. See Rules of Procedure, 43. If extended exceptions may be noted in G. O. 43, 159, 282, C. M. O. 160, 170, 191, of 1864; Do. 303, 565, 607, of 1865; 35.

distinct offence from that designated by the charge,—a finding of guilty upon the charge cannot be sustained, unless indeed be in the case some *other* specification or specifications apply to the charge upon which a substantial conviction has been arrived at. The most simple and familiar illustration of exception detracting from the legal virtue of a specification excepting by the court of the word or words which express *gravamen* of the offence in law. As where the charge is Violation of the 60th Article of war, and the specification alleges “knowingly” presenting of a fraudulent claim upon the States: here, if the court, in convicting upon the specification excepts the word “knowingly,” it acquits the accused of the offence, and cannot, (upon such finding alone,) convict him under the charge.¹ Such instances, however now rare; exceptions, leaving the substance of the specification unaffected, being frequently and judiciously resorted to in practice of our courts-martial.

In charges. What has last been remarked has reference to the *specification*, occasions for making exceptions in which being seldom presented. It is only indeed where the charge is inartificially and faultily drawn, or is “double,” or expresses more than the offence found, that an exception therein would be likely to be made. Thus in a case published in Orders of the War Department where one of the charges was “Embezzling and misapplying military stores,” the finding of the court was “Guilty, excepting the words ‘embezzling and.’”² If the charge is duly worded according to the terms of the Article of war upon which it is based, it is properly indivisible, and an exception of any part made in the finding will not be legitimate. Thus where the charge is “Conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman,” to except from the conviction thereon the words “and a gentleman,” and find the accused guilty of conduct unbecoming an officer only, would be irregular and unauthorised.

1. See the point illustrated in G. O. 28 of 1859; Do. 34, Dep. of Mo., 1863; Do. 20, 54, Northern Dept., 1864; Do. 28, Dept. of West, 1865; Do. 11, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1867; Do. 41, the Platte, 1870; also DIGEST, 263.

2. G. O. 341 of 1863.

3. This finding, which had been previously sometimes made by courts-martial, (as in Capt. Dyson's case, G. O., Tenth Mil. Dist., Nov. 1864, where it was approved without remark by Maj. Gen. Scott,) was

er is not an offence specifically known to the military if, in such a case, the court do not consider the conduct becoming a gentleman as well as an officer, they should quit the accused altogether, or find him guilty of "Con-he prejudice of good order and military discipline."

finding with exceptions and substitutions. The au-f of a court-martial to make a partial finding is not limited re making of exceptions. Where, while the allegations ification are substantially made out, certain items therein recisely proved as averred, the court, in excepting the y *substitute* the true facts or details as established by the . As, for example, where sums of money, numbers of inds or quantities of articles, species of military stores, ds spoken, names of persons, dates, or places, have been ly set forth in the specification, and the true particulars n disclosed in the course of the testimony on the trial; in s the court, in its finding of Guilty, may and properly pt the erroneous and substitute for them the correct state- words of description.¹ The authority to make substi- ; subject to the same conditions as the authority to make is, *viz.* that the specification shall not be rendered legally , or the nature of the offence so modified that the finding : specification will not support a conviction upon the

ard to the authority to except and substitute in findings, e remarked that it is certainly one of no little practical l convenience. By its exercise defects in the pleadings considerable extent be remedied, and variances between dings and the proof be in the main cured. Moreover, g is thus made to correspond with the precise facts of justice to both sides is more nearly done, and the accused ore effectually protected against a second prosecution on the same transaction. It is of course always desir- military cases that, where practicable, the charges and

d and discontinued, as a finding neither of a lesser included or of any offence known to military law, by G. O. 8 of 1856. 2. O. 49, Dept. of Dakota, 1871; De Hart, 373; O'Brien, 161. Simmons § 852-855; DIGEST, 263; and instances in G. O. 41, 96, of 1863; Do. 5, 7, 53, of 1864; G. C. M. O. 314, 325, of 1864; 122, of 1865; Do. 187 of 1866.

specifications should be so drawn, and the case so prepared the averments will accurately represent the facts, and the jury will verify in detail the averments: where this can be it will rarely be necessary to qualify the findings in the manner indicated.

Conviction of a Lesser Offence. This is a species of partial finding familiar to the civil procedure, and which at common law illustrates also the practice of exception and substitution. It is properly resorted to where the offence charged, which includes, as a necessary constituent, another offence of lesser gravity, and where the evidence—the accused has pleaded Not Guilty—falls short of fixing upon the accused the superior but shows him to have committed the inferior offence. In such cases the court may find him Not Guilty of the offence charged but Guilty of the minor constituent.¹ And it so finds, since otherwise the true degree of criminality in the offence will not be pronounced, and the accused will escape conviction and punishment altogether; for if simply found Not Guilty of the major offence he is fully acquitted of the minor offence within it.

Thus, where the evidence warrants it, manslaughter may be found under a charge of murder, larceny under a charge of robbery, simple assault under a charge of battery, an attempt to commit an offence, or, (in the case of a violent crime,) an offence with intent to commit it, under a charge of the offence itself, or absence-without-leave under desertion.³

1. See *Adye*, 214; *Tytler*, 321; *Simmons* § 622; *Kennedy*, 185; *By*, 72; *Macomb*, 63; *O'Brien*, 265; *De Hart*, 185; *DIGEST*, 264; compare *Grant v. Gould*, 2 H. Bl. 69; *Reynolds v. People*, 83 Ill. 111. Note also the similar authority given in criminal cases in the States courts, by Sec. 1035, Rev. Sts.

2. See *Dynes v. Hoover*, 20 How. 79, where the finding, by court-martial, of an *attempt to desert*, under a charge of desertion, appears to be recognized as legitimate. And see with this the recent case of *Bankhead v. U. S.*, 20 Ct. Cl. 405.

In *Prindeville v. People*, 42 Ills. 217, the court, in affirming a conviction of assault with intent to commit rape under an indictment for rape, made the following remark, generally, that—"Where the prosecution must prove every fact necessary to constitute the lesser offence, together with the additional facts which make it the higher offence, in order to justify a conviction for the latter, then a conviction may be had for the lesser offence under an indictment for the greater."

3. Compare XIII Opins. At. Gen. 460. It may be repeated

herever a lesser offence is thus found, the findings upon the specification and the charge should be so framed as to be consistent, and the finding on the specification should be such as to support the finding on the charge. With this view, there should never be *excepted* from the specification such words as in law characterize only the superior offence. Thus, in finding manslaughter under a charge of murder, the allegation of *malice aforethought* in the specification, should be in terms excepted from the finding of Guilty thereon, and as to this the accused should be found Not Guilty. So, where, under a charge of desertion, the specification sets forth that the accused 'did desert,' &c., the court, if proposing to find Not Guilty of desertion but Guilty of absence-without-leave, should, from the finding of Guilty on the specification, *except* the words alleging or describing a desertion; otherwise the two findings will be inconsistent. And, in so excepting, the court should further *substitute* the words—'absent himself without authority,' or other words properly descriptive of the real offence.¹

It need scarcely be noted that while a court-martial may always find of a lesser kindred offence, it is not empowered to find a more or graver offence than the one charged, nor an offence of a different nature.² Murder cannot be found under a charge of slaughter, nor robbery under a charge of larceny; nor, on the other hand, can burglary be found under an indictment for larceny or arson. Similarly, drunkenness on duty cannot legally be found under a charge of simple drunkenness or disorderly conduct; nor can conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman be found under a charge of drunkenness on duty.³ And this though

by such a finding, the accused must have pleaded Not Guilty. Where the accused deliberately and intelligently pleads Guilty to a charge of desertion, he cannot legally be convicted of absence-without-leave on it. See G. O. 231, Fifth Mil. Dist., 1869; Do. 24, Dept. of the Gulf, 1871.

DIGEST, 264. A simple finding, under a charge of desertion, of Not Guilty but Guilty of absence-without-leave, "unaccompanied by exceptions or substitutions, though irregular and exceptional at military law, would yet be legal and effectual. Compare *Morehead v. Commonwealth*, 34 Ohio St. 212.

Kennedy, 185; Simmons § 700; Maltby, 72; Macomb, 63; O'Brien, DIGEST, 264.

See G. C. M. O. 6, Dept. of the Gulf, 1876; G. O. 14, Army of the Pacific, 1864.

the evidence clearly shows that the greater or the distinct offence was the one actually committed; for a party cannot be convicted of an offence of which he has not been notified that he is charged with, and which he has had no opportunity to defend.

Conviction under one Article of War of a Violation of another Article. Though at one time otherwise ruled,¹ it is now settled by the uniform practice of the service that where the charge is one of the specific designated offences made punishable by the Articles of war other than the general, or 62d, Article, and the evidence fails fully to sustain the charge as laid, but fixes upon the accused a neglect of duty or disorder as involved in the acts alleged in the specification, the court may properly find him Guilty of the specification, (with such exceptions, &c., as may be required,) and Not Guilty of the charge but Guilty of "Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline." This finding, of an offence in violation of the general Article under a charge for a violation of a specific Article, was first sanctioned where the charge was "Conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman," in violation of Art. 61, and is still most frequently resorted to thereunder.² It has since, however, been extended to *all cases of charges of specific offences* made punishable by the code, having been especially applied to such as Disobedience of Orders, Disrespect to a commanding officer, Mutiny, Misdemeanour before the enemy, Breach of arrest, Violations of Art. 60, and—in time of war—Violations of Art. 58.³ The legal theory upon which it is based is that it is a form of finding of a lesser included offence, every specific offence being viewed as including either a neglect of duty or a disorder in breach of discipline; and it is resorted to in order to prevent the failure of justice which would in general be incurred were it not availed of. It should not, however, be employed where the specific offence charged is substantially established beyond a reasonable doubt. For though it might be agreeable to the court to relieve the accused of some share of the culpability thus fixed upon him, such action would

1. In G. O. 17 of 1856; Do. 28 of 1859.

2. So, occasionally, in the navy. See G. C. M. O. 29, 30, Navy Dept., 1882.

3. See cases of such findings approved in G. O. 282 of 1863; G. M. O. 171 of 1864; G. O. 4, Dept. of the Gulf, 1872; Do. 163, Dept. of the Mo., 1870.

evasion of responsibility on its part and a dereliction of duty its official oath.¹

authority, however, to employ this form does not extend to the cases above indicated. Thus the reverse of this finding is to say a finding of Guilty of a *specific* offence under the charge of "Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline" is not sanctioned, and, if made, would be disallowed as a gross irregularity,² especially where the punishment prescribed for the offence found was more severe than that prescribed for the offence charged. Thus a conviction of a violation of Art. 21, (a capital offence,) could not legally be made under a charge of a violation of Art. 62. And so of a finding of Guilty of a specific offence under a charge of another specific offence,—such as "Conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman under the circumstances of duty, or Mutiny under Misbehaviour before the Court-martial;" this also would be unauthorized, as finding the accused guilty of an offence to which he had not been called upon to plead in his defence.³

It may be added that a finding under a specific Article may be treated as a valid finding of "Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline," though not formally so expressed, and is in substance an equivalent. As where, under a charge of violation of Art. 21, the finding is Not Guilty but Guilty of "Disobedience of orders," or where under a charge of Drunkenness on duty, the finding is Not Guilty but Guilty of "Simple drunkenness."⁴ Such forms, however, are now rare.

Verdict of a Lesser Degree or Grade of a Criminal Offence. While the military law does not recognize grades or degrees of criminal offences cognizable by courts-martial,⁵ such

¹DIGEST, 266; G. C. M. O. 6, Dept. of the Platte, 1882.

²DIGEST, 264; G. C. M. O. 78, Dept. of the Mo., 1874; Do. 6, Dept. of the Gulf, 1876.

³DIGEST, 265, 266. And see G. O. 14, 27, Army of the Potomac, also G. C. M. O. 123, Dept. of Cal., 1882, where a finding of Guilty of a violation of Art. 17, under a charge of violation of Art. 60, was disallowed as without legal sanction.

⁴Upon & Col., 154.

⁵There is a form of finding in vogue in the navy, (though unknown in the army,) of—"Guilty in a lesser degree than charged," followed by designation of the specific degree found. See instances in G. C. M. O. 33, Navy Dept., 1882; Do. 6, Id., 1883.

courts, when passing judgment, in time of war, upon crimes the class specified in Art. 58, have in a few cases made finding of a lesser degree of the crime charged. So, military commissions, when acting as substitutes for the State courts under Reconstruction Laws, have sometimes made similar findings.

III. ADDITIONS TO THE FINDING.

It is a peculiarity of the military procedure that a court-martial in its judgment, is not confined to a bare acquittal or convict but may characterize or explain the finding, (or sentence,) or accompany it with animadversions, recommendations or other marks, as follows:—

1. Thus, in pronouncing the accused Not Guilty, the court in lieu of a simple acquittal, may "*fully*," or "*honorably*," "*fully and honorably*" acquit. These terms add nothing to legal effect of the acquittal, but are still occasionally employed though less so than formerly.¹ "*Honorably*," according to authorities,² is not in general to be employed except in a case where the alleged offence is not merely a violation of military duty but one of which a conviction would have dishonored the individual—as, for example, conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, misbehaviour before the enemy, embezzlement or other fraudulent act made punishable by Art. 60. This and other like forms, however, should be reserved for exceptional cases, since their use, if more frequent, would detract somewhat from findings of Not Guilty when expressed *without* such embellishment.³

2. The court, in connection with an acquittal, may also *reply upon the charges* as malicious, frivolous, vexatious, unfounded &c.,⁴ or upon the *accuser or prosecutor*, (or prosecuting witness

1. See recent instances in G. C. M. O. 20 of 1885; Do. 125, Dept. of Cal., 1884.

2. Simmons § 625; Kennedy, 196; Griffiths, 77; Bombay R., 3 Clode, M. L., 151-2; Maltby, 71; O'Brien, 268; De Hart, 182.

3. See De Hart, 182.

4. 2 McArthur, 264, 266; Simmons, § 703; Kennedy, 197; De Hart, 183; O'Brien, 268; G. O. of Nov. 11, 1816, (Maj. Gen. Gaines' case) Do. 8, Middle Dept., 1865. In a G. O. of Nov., 1817, the court, in declaring certain charges to be "frivolous," adds that it attaches no weight to the judge advocate who subscribed them, since he had done merely *ex officio*.

l by personal animosity or other improper motive,¹ or culpable with the accused, or more culpable—recommend that he be himself brought to trial,² or as offending literary usage by preferring stale or accumulated charges, his comments, however, are not now frequent in our courts, the court commonly leaving this class of criticisms to the reviewing authority.

The court may *animadvert upon the statement* or argument used, (or judge advocate,) as being disrespectful or objectionable in tone or particular language.⁴ It may also remark upon any *improper conduct*, during the trial, of either the accused, counsel, or witnesses, and may remark upon the conduct of the latter as inspired by personal feeling or prejudices, however, upon civilian witnesses and persons connected with the army and properly be more guarded than need be those members of the army. Where a witness is believed to have been misled, the facts should be *specially* brought to the attention of the reviewing commander.⁵

Where the evidence has disclosed a *defective state of discipline* or an objectionable practice at a post, &c., the court, in its opinion, has sometimes remarked upon the same, recommending administrative changes or reforms.⁶

Courts-martial are sometimes induced to add *explanations* or reasons to give the reasons therefor, especially where the character of the testimony, may appear to require justification. Such action, however, must in general be unnecessary and inadvisable.⁷

Where indeed the evidence or proceedings indicate *insanity* or mental incapacity on the part of the accused, the court, in its opinion, (or convicting,) will properly state the facts, and

cases in James, 35, 203, 266, 461, 727; also Simmons § 701, 704, 504, 533; Kennedy, 170; Clode, M. L., 151; O'Brien, art, 183; G. O. 3 of 1853; (remarks of Maj. Gen. Scott.) Arthur, 267; Delafons, 278.

§ 539.

ons § 704; James, 461; O'Brien, 268; Lieut. Kennon's Trial,

reflections upon the testimony or deportment of *witnesses*, 366, 539; Simmons § 705; Kennedy, 197; Hughes, 85; De Hart, 183-4.

ons § 702; Bombay R., 58; O'Brien, 268; De Hart, 183.

stances in G. O. 374 of 1863; G. C. M. O. 73, 74, 200, of 1864.

may add such *recommendation*—as that the accused be dismissed from the service, or committed to the Government Asylum, may seem to be called for.¹

Limitation of the authority. But—it may here be said, while the court may sometimes properly recommend or suggest action to the reviewing commander, it may not itself assume to take action pertaining to his province. Thus where the court, in acquitting a soldier, directed that he “be discharged, arrested and returned to duty with his regiment,” this additional direction was properly disapproved as transcending the authority of a court-martial.²

1. See Simmons § 590; Kennedy, 195; O'Brien, 266; G. O. 1824; Do. 36 of 1825; Do. 20, Western Dept., 1861; Do. 32, Department of the Gulf, 1862.

2. G. O. 60, Army of the Potomac, 1861.

CHAPTER XX.

SENTENCE AND PUNISHMENT.

The Finding having been completed, and having resulted in a conviction upon the Charge or upon some one at least of the charges where there are several,—or in a conviction of a lesser offence included in one charged,—the court next proceeds to adjudge the Sentence, *i. e.* to affix a penalty or penalties for the offence or offences found.¹

The subject of this Chapter will be conveniently presented under the following heads:—

- I. The Course of Proceeding.
- II. Classification of Sentences.
- III. Principles governing the imposing of discretionary sentences.
- IV. Principles governing the framing and substance of the sentence in general.
- V. The specific punishments separately considered.
- VI. Prohibited and Disused Punishments.
- VII. Remarks with Sentence, and Recommendation.
- VIII. Disciplinary Punishments.

I. THE COURSE OF PROCEEDING.

Voting and Deliberation. Where the Article or Articles of war, under which the accused has been convicted, is or are mandatory in expressly requiring a certain punishment or punishments specified to be imposed upon conviction, the office of the

¹ The term "Sentence" is now uniformly applied in practice to the final designation by the court of the punishment or punishments. In Resolutions of the Continental Congress, (see III Journals, 144, 158, ; IV Id., 268,) "sentences" of *acquittal* are sometimes referred to, the word sentence being employed as a general term equivalent to judgment. And note a similar use of the word in cases reported by James, 281, 462, 463, 471, 639, 760, 786, 791, 794, 820, 823; also in case cited Simmons § 563.

court simply is to cause the legal sentence to be entered of record by the judge advocate, no discretion being allowed and no deliberation or vote being called for. In cases, however, in which the sentence is left by the code to the discretion of the court, the members, the verdict being completed, commonly proceed at once to vote for a punishment or punishments, in the manner usually observed upon the Finding, and already indicated. The court may of course take an *adjournment* between finding and sentence if deemed proper and expedient.

The voting may be either oral and open, beginning with the "youngest in commission" of the members as directed in Art. 95; or in writing and secret, the member's name not being appended to his vote. The latter form is, except in simple cases, that usually pursued: it is also in general the preferable one, not only because, the votes of individuals not being known, there can be no danger that the opinion of a senior member will unduly influence that of a junior, but also for the reason that the different awards, combining as they may several distinct penalties

1. It need hardly be remarked that no *evidence* can be received after finding and before sentence. The proceeding, authorized in the British law, (Rules of Procedure, 45,) of introducing at this stage evidence as to character and service, including records of arrests and convictions if any, has not been sanctioned in our practice. In recent cases in the Department of the Columbia, in which records of previous conviction had been referred to at this stage by the court-martial, its course was commented upon, and action was taken, by Gen. Pope, (Dept. Commander,) as follows:—"In the cases of Privates *John Connors*, Company 'A,' 14th Infantry, and *John E. Powers*, Light Battery 'E,' 1st Artillery, the Court, after the findings and before the sentences, called for and examined, without the assent, so far as appears, of the accused, the records of their respective companies, which showed in case of Private *Connors* that he had been three times, and in case of Private *Powers* that he had been five times, convicted of military offences. There is no authority for such action in our military law, and the same is disapproved. Even had either of the accused assented, the action would have been irregular, since such facts (unless recited by way of inducement in the specification and admitted by a plea of guilty) can only be introduced as *testimony*, in the usual manner and subject to the rules of evidence. Otherwise the proceedings, findings and sentences are approved; but as the measure of punishment awarded by the Court was probably influenced by the records improperly introduced, two (2) months of the confinement and forfeiture in case of Private *Connors*, and three (3) months of the confinement and forfeiture in case of Private *Powers*, are remitted. As thus mitigated the sentences will be executed." G. C. M. O. 59, Dept. of the Columbia, 1884. And see a precisely similar case in Do. 60, Id.

ll, when expressed in writing, be the more definite and and the more readily compared.

allots are commonly collected by the judge advocate, and and announced by him or the president. Where no punishment is found to be concurred in by a majority upon the first other votings are to be had until some final sentence comes approved by a majority of the members present.¹

the first vote, or at any other stage of the voting, the s, with a view to the reconciling of differences of opinion, gage in such discussion as may be desirable; and here, as e Finding, the equality of the members is to be preserved, being entitled to the same freedom of expression and the nsideration as a senior.

e the sentences originally voted are found all to differ, it 1 an approved practice for the court to proceed to vote em in succession, beginning with the least severe, until hem receives the vote requisite for its adoption.² A ma- f the votes may sometimes be found to concur in some alty or more: in such a case the proceedings will be sim- y treating such penalty or penalties as agreed upon; the eeing then resumed upon the other propositions. The which has prevailed somewhat in British courts-martial g—when opinions differ—first upon the *species* of the pun- ; and then upon the *quantum*,³ has not been common with may of course be resorted to if thought proper.

y be remarked indeed that neither law nor regulation has ed any special routine to be pursued in the making up nte. The usual form, as above outlined, is thus sub- variation at the discretion of the court, which may indeed, fit, dispense with voting altogether, and arrive at its con- by a comparison of views in an informal conversation.

of joint accused. When two or more persons have ed on joint charges and convicted, their sentences must al, although the punishments awarded be the same. If

to the form in general pursued in voting upon the sentence, see 11; Griffiths, 84; Hughes, 90; Maltby, 82; O'Brien, 269; DI- 7.

Brien, 270; DIGEST, 447.

mons § 641; Griffiths, 84; Hughes, 91, 93; Manual, 531; 270.

the sentence be discretionary with the court, a *separate voting* concurrence should therefore be had as to the sentence of each of the accused.

Majority and Two-thirds Votes. The question of the selection of the sentence, or of any punishment, like all other questions arising in the procedure of our courts-martial, is, (except in the single instance of the death penalty,) determined by a majority vote. In the excepted case two thirds of the members present and acting must—as required by Art. 96—concur; *i. e.* four of a court of five members, five of a court of seven, six of a court of nine, eight of a court of eleven, and nine of a court of thirteen. In all other cases a simple majority is sufficient, if it is necessary, to impose a punishment. A *tie* vote, given when there is an even number of members, is futile and determines nothing. Where it occurs, the voting must be continued till a majority in favor of a certain sentence or punishment is obtained.

Duty of Members who on the Finding Voted to Acquit.

A marked diversity of opinion once prevailed upon the point whether the members, (where the sentence was discretionary,) were obliged to vote a sentence without regard to what may have been their vote upon the finding,—whether, in other words, those who had voted for an acquittal might not properly be excused from voting a punishment. At the first impression it might seem unreasonable and inconsistent that a member, fully persuaded that the accused was innocent, or at least that the evidence had failed to convict him beyond a reasonable doubt, and who had voted accordingly, in the minority, for an acquittal, should at the next moment be required to adjudge that a special punishment be imposed upon him as upon a guilty person. But this apparent inconsistency disappears when the principle is recalled, which has heretofore been set forth as resulting from the fundamental rule of the government of the majority in court-martial proceedings; *viz.* that the finding, when completed, becomes the act and judgment of the court as a *unit*, the opinions of the majority and minority no longer existing as such but being absorbed in the conclusion of the whole. Where, therefore, the accused has been found guilty, the conviction is to be recognized and acted upon by each member as a fixed fact—something which has passed out of the region of individual opinion.

come ascertained and concluded. Though he may not guilty, he is to vote upon the sentence precisely as if he had voted for a conviction, or as if the fact of guilt had been ascertained by some competent agency wholly independently and the rightfulness of such determination was beyond question.¹

He must not only vote a sentence but an adequate sentence commensurate to the offence or offences found. If he votes to acquit, he gives his vote for a slight and inadequate sentence; he fails in his full duty as an officer and member of the court.²

Sentence Necessary on Conviction. But though the sentence pronounced be inadequate, *some* sentence must always be pronounced on a conviction. For a court, as has sometimes been said, is not to award a sentence for the expressed reason that the offence is shown to have been a very slight one, or that the guilt of the accused was greatly palliated by the circumstances of the case, or that he has been held for an unreasonable period in arrest or confinement before trial, &c.,—on account of an irregularity.³ And so of any mere direction as to the sentence of the accused, or recommendation as to his discharge, addressed to the reviewing authority;⁴ such not being a proper substitute for one.

he accused has escaped. The fact that, pending trial, the accused has escaped from military custody furnishes

on this subject, McNaghten, 117-129, and Kennedy, 198-206, the authors being especially full and pointed; also Simmons § 637-638, 81, 84; Hughes, 93; Bombay R., 35; O'Brien, 269; Deane, 31; Lee, 155; Capt. Barron's Trial, (Navy,) 333; DIGEST, vol. 1, p. 639, cites a case of a member of a court-martial, who was ordered to vote a punishment after having voted to acquit, was held liable to trial for the neglect of duty involved. It is now excluded by the English Rules of Procedure § 68, that—"Every member of a court must give his opinion on every question which the court has to decide, and must give his opinion as to the sentence, notwithstanding that he has given his opinion in favor of acquittal."

McNaghten, 125; also G. C. M. O. 163, Dept. of the Mo., 1882; G. O. 27 of 1835; Do. 12 of 1836; Do. 45 of 1864; G. C. M. O. 14; Do. 8, Dept. of Cal., 1874; G. O. 20, Dept. of the South, 1870; Do. 9, Dept. of Dakota, 1870.

See also under head of—"The sentence must constitute a criminal

no ground for not proceeding to a finding, and, in the event of conviction, to a sentence, in his case; and the court may and should thus find and sentence precisely as in any other instance. The court, having once duly assumed jurisdiction of the offence and person, cannot, by any wrongful act of the accused, be ousted of its authority or discharged from its duty to proceed fully to try and determine, according to law and its oath.¹

Where the accused is insane. Where indeed the evidence quite clearly shows that the accused was insane at the time of the offence, whether or not the insanity is specially pleaded as a defence, there can of course properly be *no conviction* and therefore *no sentence*. Where the fact is shown in evidence, or developed upon the trial, that the accused has become insane since the commission of the offence, here also the court will most properly neither find nor sentence but will communicate officially to the convening authority the testimony or circumstances and its action thereon, and adjourn to await orders. In some instances of this class the court has added a recommendation that the accused be discharged from the service,² transcending however in so doing its strict province.

Compromise Sentence. For the court to make up its sentence by dividing the aggregate of the different quantities of punishment voted—as the terms of imprisonment, fines, or amount of pay to be forfeited—by the number of the members, and taking the average result as the sentence to be adjudged, is clearly not a proper or military proceeding.³ Twyford⁴ expresses the opinion that such a sentence is “illegal” and “not the sentence of the court.” More correctly, however, this form, though not affecting the validity of the judgment, would be an objectionable

1. Compare *Meade v. Dpty. Marshal*, 1 Brock, 324; *Fight v. State*, Ohio, 180; *McCorkle v. State*, 14 Ind. 39; *State v. Wamire*, 16 Id. 357. Upon the trial by military commission of Dodd and others, in Indiana, in 1864, the court, in the absence of Dodd, who had escaped, sentenced him to death, and its action was duly approved by the reviewing authority. These authorities have been referred to in Chapter XIX on the point that the court may *find* under similar circumstances.

2. See Chapter XIX—“Additions to the Finding, 6.”

3. Compare Wharton, C. P. & P. § 842.

4. Guide Book, p. 20.

gularity:¹ it is certainly very rare in practice. To determine a punishment by *casting lots* would be still more irregular.²

Adjournment and Reconsideration. In a case of impaneled jury, or where a conflict of opinion is developed upon a material question, it is always proper for the court to take an adjournment, pending its deliberation upon the sentence, in order that the members may have an opportunity to reflect upon the issues raised, consult precedents, &c., or in order that the judge presiding may be enabled to prepare an opinion or statement of law upon the point under discussion.

So, too, after a sentence has been agreed upon, the court possesses the power to reconsider and modify the same at discretion, *any time before the transmittal of the proceedings to the reviewing officer.* This doctrine was substantially affirmed at an early period, (1819,) in *Private Williamson's case*, where the action of a court-martial, which, having sentenced the accused to a term of confinement, adjourned and on the ensuing day reconsidered its sentence and substituted one of death, was held by Attorney General Wirt to have been authorized and regular.³ And the power to reconsider would extend to the substitution, for the sentence, of a full *acquittal*, if deemed by the court just and proper.⁴

Recording of Sentence. The sentence having been committed, is formally entered in the Record, for the action of the reviewing Authority.⁵

See Simmons § 642; Hough, (P.) 793; Manual, 531.

Compare Wharton, C. P. & P. § 842; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 998 *a*.

1 Opinions, 296-9. This authority, as indeed indicated by Mr. Justice, is analogous to that which may be exercised by civil courts, of reversing sentences when not in accordance with law. Thus in *Miller v. The People*, 1 Park. 376, the court say:—"If, by inadvertence in pronouncing a sentence, a requirement of the statute has been overlooked, it may be corrected by the same tribunal before further action is taken."

* * The court has the right to expunge or vacate the first sentence and to pass a new sentence." And see 1 Bishop, C. P. § 1298 and cases cited. A court-martial, however, is not restricted to errors of law as grounds for reconsidering and modifying its sentence, but may change it for any other good reason—as that it is inadequate, or too severe, or inappropriate to the nature of the offence.

That the same number of members need not take part in the reconsideration, provided a *quorum of the same* be present—see VII *Opinions*, 338.

As to this action see Chapter XXI. In the British law, as lately as

II. CLASSIFICATION OF SENTENCES.

Distinction made by the Articles of War. The power of selection of punishment which a court-martial may exercise in imposing sentence depends upon the provision of law under which the charge is laid. The penal code of the army, in providing for the punishment of military offences, either prescribes a particular penalty to be adjudged in the event of conviction, or declares that a certain penalty shall be imposed *or such other* as the court may direct, or, without naming any penalty, simply leaves the matter of sentence to the will of the court. In the first case the sentence or punishment may be distinguished as *mandatory*; in the other two cases as *discretionary*.

Mandatory Sentences. The Articles of war which require that a certain specific punishment shall be imposed upon conviction are the 5th, 6th, 8th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 18th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 38th, 50th, 57th, 59th, 61st, 65th, 100th, and Sec. 1343, Reg. Sts. In imposing sentence for the offences made punishable under these Articles, the province of the court is simply ministerial—to pronounce the judgment of the law. It has no power to affix a punishment either more or less severe, or other, than that specified: any different or additional punishment is simply a nullity and inoperative.¹ If more penalties than one are prescribed for the offence by the statute, all are to be included in the sentence: if any one is omitted the sentence is illegal and of no effect.² Where there has been a conviction upon several charges setting forth different offences for which different mandatory punishments are provided, all must be embraced in the sentence. Where the conviction has been of offences for some one or more of which the punishment is mandatory, while for another or others it is discretionary, the mandatory punishment or punishments must certainly be affixed, no matter how widely or variously the court may further exercise its discretionary power.

in the reign of James II, (see Art. 48 of his Code,) the presiding officer pronounced the sentence in open court,—as is still done in the French *conseils de guerre*.

1. DIGEST, 447; G. O. 13, Dept. of the Susquehanna, 1864; Do. S. Fourth Mil. Dist., 1867. And compare Wharton, C. P. & P. § 752.

2. As—in the civil practice—"if a statute imposes a fine *and* imprisonment, both must be inflicted." 1 Bishop, C. L. § 941.

ishment in the same sentence.¹ Indeed in all cases of punishments of the mandatory class, it is not the court which decrees penalty but the statute; the distinctive function of the *court* is actually terminating with the conviction.

Discretionary Sentences. The Articles of war which leave punishment to the discretion of the court are the 3d, 16th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22d, 23d, 24th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 30th, 31st, 33d, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42d, 43d, 45th, 46th, 47th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 54th, 55th, 56th, 58th, 62d, 68th, 69th, 86th and 101st.

Extent of the Discretion in General. The authority exercised is always a large one, no maximum, nor, except in a few instances,² minimum of punishment being in any case prescribed as a limit.³ The discretion ranges from the slightest penalty as an admonition or a forfeiture of a trifling sum, to the severe, as imprisonment for life, dismissal, or—where it is expressly mentioned—death.⁴ Moreover it extends to the imposing of any number of *different* punishments in the same sentence,⁵ subject only to the general rules and restrictions prescribed to be considered. Further, it is illustrated by the fact that it need not be exercised at all, provided the case is one in which

Or, though the discretionary power be not exercised at all. See

This is in Art. 58, where it is provided that, for the crimes specified the punishment "shall not be less" than that prescribed by the law. It may be noted that Art. 101 does indeed limit a forfeiture of pay, imposed with suspension, to the term of the suspension. But the term is itself left without limit.

This feature in our code has been unfavorably commented upon by Wharton, (p. 487,) and later, as inducing an uncertainty and inequality of punishment, the result being that, in cases especially of *desertion*, military courts award quite different measures of punishment for similar offenses.

See *Rex v. Suddis*, 1 East, 316.

Our law, (long settled on this point—see O'Brien, 276,) differs from the English, where, as it appears, two distinct punishments cannot, even when expressly authorized, be combined in the same sentence. See Wharton § 687; Kennedy, 209. And see Army Act § 44. In a recent English case in which dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of pay and imprisonment in a penitentiary were combined in a sentence imposed upon a conviction of a violation of Art. 62, the regularity and validity of the sentence were expressly affirmed by the Supreme Court. *Ex parte* *Smith*, 105 U. S. 700.

the *law* supplies some penalty. Thus where there has been a conviction of two or more offences, for one of which the punishment is mandatory, the punishments for the others being discretionary, the sentence of the court will be legally sufficient if it contains no punishment other than the single mandatory one.

III. PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE IMPOSING OF DISCRETIONARY SENTENCES.

The Sentence is to be based upon the Facts as Proven and Found. The sentence should follow the findings and be based upon the facts as found. Thus, proof of valuable service, general good character, or other extraneous circumstances favorable to the accused but foreign to the merits of the case (although sometimes properly considered upon the Finding of material especially to the question of *intent*,) cannot—*strictly*—be allowed to affect the discretion of the court in imposing sentence, but—if deemed to call for particular notice—should form the subject of a separate “recommendation” to clemency.¹ As a *practice*, however, the fact that the accused is shown to have had a good character or record in the service prior to his offence is in general permitted to enter into the question of the punishment to be imposed, and a court-martial will sometimes add to a light sentence the explanation that it is “thus lenient” because of such character or record. Regularly, however, the same is rather ground for mitigation of punishment by the reviewing authority than for a milder judgment on the part of the court.²

Basing then the sentence upon the facts as established by the evidence and ascertained by the finding, the punishment will regularly and properly be measured by the nature and comparative gravity of the offence as illustrated by the peculiar circumstances preceding and accompanying it, the intent manifested by

1. See G. O. 20, Dept. of the South, 1866; Do. 115, Dept. of the Mo. 1867; Do. 15, 16, Dept. of Dakota, 1868; Do. 69, Id., 1870; G. C. M. O. 163, Dept. of the Mo., 1882. And compare Simmons § 697; Harcourt 146, 150.

As heretofore pointed out, the sentence cannot of course be influenced by facts not in evidence and known only to individual members. G. O. 20, Dept. of the South, 1866; Do. 8, Dept. of Arizona, 1874.

2. See, in G. O. 57, Dept. of Dakota, 1867, remarks of the Dept. Commander upon certain sentences as being so inadequate as in effect to extend clemency and invade the province of the reviewing authority.

offender, his *animus* toward the aggrieved person if any, the sequences of his act, its effect upon military discipline, &c.

Discrimination on Account of Relative Rank of Officers. Where there are *joint* accused, different degrees of punishment will often properly be called for, according to the , whether leading or secondary, taken in the criminal transaction by the several individuals. Where a non-commissioned officer has been concerned with a private soldier in the offence, is jointly charged and convicted with him, his sentence, for the best reasons, should be more severe than that of his associate. The sentence of an officer or non-commissioned officer condemned *singly* of a military offence should in general be more severe than would be that of an inferior under the same or similar circumstances.¹ It is however to be noted that a punishment which affects military *rank* is in general a severe one, and the more severe in proportion as the rank is the higher, so that reprobation in the case of a non-commissioned officer, or suspension of a commissioned officer, will often prove a more rigorous penalty than would a moderate term of confinement in the case of an enlisted man. The rank and office of the accused will properly enter into the question of the proper measure of punishment to be apportioned.

Discrimination between Degrees of Criminality. In exercising its discretion as to the sentence, a court-martial will properly discriminate between cases of persons tried and condemned by it, severally, of the same offence, where the degrees of criminality are shown to be materially different. In such cases punishments should be different also, and to prescribe the same routine sentence in each instance is not a just or proper exercise of the discretion devolved by the law.²

Discretion as affected by Jurisdictional Grade of Offence. The discretion of a *general* court-martial in adjudging punishment is not restricted by the fact that the offence of which the accused has been convicted is one cognizable by, and ordinarily referred to, a garrison or regimental court. While the

See DIGEST, 247.

Note remarks of Gen. McDowell in G. O. 18, Dept. of the South,

punishment is not necessarily to be any the more severe because the case has been sent to a superior rather than to an inferior court,¹ it may yet properly exceed that which the latter could legally impose if the facts as proved are deemed to require it.

As affected by a Finding of a "Lesser" Offense. Where a *lesser* offence has been found under the specific charge the court cannot, of course, impose a punishment legal only for the offence actually charged;² nor can it properly impose one as severe as that offence would justly have called for had it been found.

Discretion as affected by the Local Law. Except in time of war, in a case of one of the crimes specified in Art. 15, the authority of a court-martial as to the awarding of punishment is not controlled by the local law. Where indeed the offence found is one which would also be punishable by courts of the State, &c., in which it was committed, (or in which the trial is had,) the civil statute fixing the penalty may well be consulted as an aid in arriving at a reasonable measure of punishment for the military crime. The court-martial, however, is in no respect *bound* by that statute but may affix such sentence as the interests of military discipline, as prejudiced by the offence committed, may be deemed to require, though in so doing it may considerably exceed the limit of the local law.⁴

Restrictions upon the Exercise of the Discretion. Wide as is the discretion as to the sentence which is reposed in a general court-martial by the 62d and the majority of the Articles of war, the same is yet properly subject to such restrictions in regard to punishment as are prescribed by the Constitution, by the statute law governing the army, or by military usage.⁵

1. Manual, 54.

2. This simple point is noticed because of the erroneous view expressed thereon by De Hart, 53, 64-5.

3. See G. O. 77 of 1837.

4. DIGEST, 81, 450. And see *Ex parte* Mason, 105 U. S. 700.

5. See Simmons § 111; Kennedy, 208; Maltby, 100; De Hart, 196; X Opins. At. Gen., 160.

By Constitutional provision. The Constitution, in Art. II of the Amendments, provides that "excessive fines" shall not be "imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted." This provision applies indeed only to the courts of the United States, but courts-martial, though, as we have seen, no part of the U. S. judiciary, and not legally *bound* by such provision, will properly observe it as a general rule of practice.¹

"Excessive fines." Fines at military law are adjudged merely with a view to reimburse the United States for some pecuniary loss occasioned by the offence of the accused: the idea of punishment, however, of course enters into every fine, and a fine reasonably increased for the purpose of punishment above the amount required to make good the loss would not be subject to objection. But a fine which should greatly exceed such amount, especially where the purposes of punishment were adequately answered by other penalties embraced in the same sentence, would be liable to the objection of being "excessive" in the sense of the Constitution.

"Cruel and unusual punishments." As to this phrase, it may first be remarked that, in the opinion of the author, the word "and" should be construed as *or*; it being considered that the prohibition is twofold, *viz.* of such punishments as are unusual as well as of such as are cruel; in other words that it is not essential that the punishment shall be both cruel *and* unusual, but that it may be either. Further, the word "punishments," distinguished from it is from "fines," is regarded as referring mainly to such punishments as are corporal in their nature, namely such as involve restraint or suffering upon the body—as forms of imprisonment especially. Then, as to the terms "cruel" and "unusual"—an *unusual* punishment may be said to be one not recognized by law or usage.² Punishments may be rare without being unusual. Thus confinement on bread and water diet, and the lash and chain, though now unfrequently imposed, are not "unusual" since they are still sanctioned by usage and not prohibited.

See DIGEST, 448, and authorities cited.

¹ U. S. v. Collins, 2 Curtis, 194; Barker v. People, 20 Johns. 458; People v. People, 5 Park. 364; 1 Bishop, C. L. § 947; De Hart, 68; Benét, X Opins. At. Gen., 160.

by law. Whether a punishment is to be stigmatized as *cruel* depends so much upon the nature and circumstances of the offence that no general definition of the word as here employed can be framed. A punishment may certainly be harsh and severe and even in a degree unmerited,¹ without being cruel; and perhaps as satisfactory an explanation of the term as can readily be given would be a punishment which inflicted an amount of bodily (or mental) suffering or injury out of all reasonable proportion to the full demands of justice.²

By the statute law. The punishment selected must not be one either expressly or impliedly prohibited by the Articles of war or other statute. Thus Art. 96 expressly prohibits the imposition of the death penalty except in cases where the same is specifically authorized by the code. Art. 98 expressly prohibits the punishments of flogging, branding, &c. Art. 97, by a necessary implication from its terms, prohibits confinement in a penitentiary for purely military offences. The limitations, declared by Art. 53, upon the power of *inferior courts* to inflict punishment, are familiar to the service.

By military usage. This is the limitation recognized in Art. 54, by which members of courts-martial are required, among other things, to swear that, in cases not determined by express provisions of the code, they will administer justice "according to the custom of war in like cases." A punishment, observed Art. Gen. Bates, "contrary to the usage of the service would for that reason be forbidden by law."³ This usage has sanctioned in practice two classes of punishments, *viz.* certain ones adopted from the common law, (or civil statute law,) as fine, imprisonment with or without hard labor, and disqualification to hold office, and certain others peculiar or nearly so to the military service, such as cashiering or dismissal, dishonorable discharge, suspension, loss of files, forfeiture of pay, reduction and reprimand.

1. See III Opins. At. Gen., 632.

2. See De Hart, 69; X Opins. At. Gen., 160; also instance referred to in DIGEST, 449 § 7, and case in G. C. M. O. 24 of 1873—where a term of solitary confinement in a "dark cell," imposed in a sentence with other penalties, was disapproved as likely to impair the health of the prisoner and so "amenable to the objection of being cruel and unusual."

3. X Opins., 161. And see XII Id., 529; Bombay R., 36; Macdonald; De Hart, 196; DIGEST, 448.

A punishment recognized by the laws of a foreign country appropriate for military offences, such as the banishment imposed by the French law,¹ but which is unknown to the law of our service, would be illegal here.² So of a punishment, though once temporarily authorized by our own statute (no longer in force,) has never been recognized by our military custom—reduction of an officer to the ranks.³ And so of a punishment, formerly not unfrequently resorted to, but quite discountenanced by the existing usage—the imposing of *military service* as a punishment by sentence.⁴

896 of the Army Regulations,⁵ in specifying certain punishments, (presently to be considered,) as legal for enlisted men, the expression of the usage or usages by which these punishments have been sanctioned. This paragraph, it may be read, is not viewed as necessarily restricting, at least in time

Code de Justice Militaire § 185.

See an instance of this punishment in 3 Jour. Cong., 386. It has sometimes been adjudged by military commissions in time of war. See

DIGEST, 422-3. And see *post*.

Military duty is honorable, and to impose it in any form as a punishment must tend to degrade it, to the prejudice of the best interests of the service." DIGEST, 449. This punishment—in the form of imposing extra guard duty, extra drill, &c., or of an additional term of confinement—was declared by the Judge Advocate General, early in the late war, to be subject to grave objection, and his views were adopted by the War Department and have been repeatedly followed in Orders. See G. O. 329, of 1864; Do. 7 of 1871; G. O. 17, Dept. of the East, 1861; Do. 8, Id., 1864; Do. 56, Army of the Potomac, 1862; Dept. of the N. West, 1864; Do. 49, Middle Dept., 1864; G. C. O. 6, Navy Dept., 1882. In a recent case, in G. C. M. O. 61, Dept. of the East, 1884, in which the court, in adjudging a period of confinement added, as a further independent penalty, that the term of enlistment should be extended for a like period,—this part of the sentence is disapproved by Gen. Terry, who observes: "The term of enlistment in the United States army is fixed by law at five years, and no law which authorizes a court-martial to prolong that period is valid." * * * The sentence of a court-martial which increases the term for which a soldier has enlisted is illegal."

This paragraph, (of which the original was G. O. 21 of 1851,) is as follows:—"The legal punishments for soldiers by sentence of court-martial, according to the nature of the offence and the jurisdiction of the court, under the law, are—death; confinement; confinement on bread and water diet; solitary confinement; hard labor; ball and chain; reduction of pay and allowances; discharges from service, and reprimand for non-commissioned officers, reduction to the ranks."

of war, the punishments imposable upon soldiers to those designated; others—hereafter to be mentioned—being also regarded as still authorized by the custom of the service and usage of

IV. PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE FRAMING AND STANCE OF THE SENTENCE IN GENERAL.

The Sentence must Constitute a Criminal Judgment. This principle results from the very nature of courts-martial tribunals invested only with a *criminal* jurisdiction and power of punishment.¹

In the first place, therefore, the requirement of the sentence must amount to a *punishment*; otherwise it is not only irregular but of no effect. Thus a sentence directing simply that the accused be "returned to duty" imposes no punishment, but the reverse, and is therefore no sentence in law.² And so of the form, adopted in one case, upon a conviction,³—"to be confined in a lunatic asylum;" such a confinement not being properly imprisonment or a punishment at military law.

In the second place the sentence cannot assume to impose a form of *civil* liability, whether in the nature of debt or damages. It cannot appropriate or dispose of the *pay* of an accused or impose upon him a *fine*, to the use or for the benefit of any individual military or civil, but can forfeit or adjudge the same to the United States only.⁴ Nor does the fact that the liability

1. See DIGEST, 448; G. O. 9, Third Mil. Dist., 1867.

2. See Chapter VI.

3. See G. O. 47, Army of the Potomac, 1862; Do. 5, 20, Dept. of the East, 1865; Do. 9, 53, Northern Dept., 1865; Do. 65, Dept. of Kansas, 1865; Do. 5, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1866.

4. In a case in G. O. 49, Dept. of the Susquehanna, 1864.

5. G. O. 21 of 1851; Do. 2 of 1857, (incorporated in par. 909, Art. Regs.); Do. 18 of 1859; G. C. M. O. 82, 478, of 1865; Do. 91, Dept. of Va., 1865; Do. 4, Dept. of Texas, 1865; Do. 33, Dept. of Ala., 1865; Do. 87, Dept. of the Mo., 1868; Do. 32, Fifth Mil. Dist., 1868; Do. 10, Dept. of Dakota, 1869; Do. 10, Dept. of the South, 1870; G. O. 10, Dept. of No. Ca., 1865; Do. 7, Dept. of the Tennessee, 1866; Do. 10, Dept. of the Miss., 1863; Harcourt, 173; DIGEST, 267, 271-2. Also compare Warden v. Bailey, 4 Taunt. 78; O'Kelley v. Latham, 100 Mass. 462; Morris v. Whitehead, 65 No. Ca., 637.

Pay cannot be forfeited by sentence in favor of a "company tailor" or "company shoemaker," to whom the accused may be indebted. (G. C. M. O. 30, Dept. of the Gulf, 1876.) Nor, under existing law, can it be forfeited or stopped to satisfy the dues of a "laundress." (See par.

out of a criminal transaction, as a liability for money or property stolen or fraudulently or otherwise illegally obtained by the accused, affect the application of the principle: in neither case can the court, by its sentence, require the accused to refund to the injured party or to reimburse him for his loss.¹

Nor, further, can a court-martial, in imposing a pecuniary fine or forfeiture of pay, legally require that the amount shall be paid to, or paid into, a particular fund—as a hospital or company fund,² or be expended for the use of sick soldiers, &c., or allotted for the support of the family of the accused.³ Nor can it, in forfeiting the pay of a soldier, on conviction of having received a sum of money from a disbursing officer, require that the amount of the forfeiture shall be credited to the account of said soldier with the United States.⁴ Further, a military court cannot condemn an accused to return a specific article of property to a person whom he has illegally deprived of the same; nor can it sentence him to be imprisoned until he pays a certain amount, or restores certain property, to a private individual.⁵ Thus a court-martial, in framing its sentence, can recognize no liability

(Army Regs.) Nor can it legally be forfeited to pay a "post reward" for articles previously sold by him to the soldier. (See Digest, 384.)

1. G. C. M. O. 177, 186, of 1864; Do. 478 of 1865; Do. 63 of 1868; Do. 33, Dept. of the East, 1866; G. O. 22, 26, Middle Dept., 1865; Do. 11, Dept. of Dakota, 1869; G. C. M. O. 22, Dept. of the Mo., 1883; Digest, 271-2. And see G. C. M. O. 10, Dept. of the South, 1870, in which a direction in a sentence that a portion of the pay of the accused be appropriated to indemnify the owner of property *destroyed* by accused, was properly disapproved. Any appropriation of this class by a court-martial is in fact an assumption of *legislative* power.

2. DIGEST, 271; G. C. M. O. 91, Dept of Va., 1865. In G. O. 23, Dept. of Ala., 1866, a sentence imposing a fine, "to be appropriated to the use of the Freedmen's Bureau," was properly disapproved. In a similar case, of a sentence, published in G. C. M. O. 217 of 1865, containing a direction of the pay of a soldier, "to be appropriated for the benefit of the Soldiers' Home, if legal, and, if not, to be forfeited to the U. S. Government," it was properly directed by the reviewing authority that "the appropriation of pay will be to the United States." It may be remarked that forfeitures, &c., of soldiers' pay, are appropriated for the benefit of the Soldiers' Home by operation of law, according to the provisions of Act of 1818, Rev. Sts., and that any direction in a sentence in regard to such appropriation is unauthorized and surplusage.

3. DIGEST, 271-2; G. O. 2, Middle Mil. Div., 1865.

4. G. C. M. O. 7, Fourth Mil. Dist., 1868.

5. G. O. 18 of 1859.

or obligation on the part of the accused except to the United States.

The Sentence must not Trench upon the Province of the Reviewing Authority. The court, in its sentence, may not assume a duty or power belonging to the reviewing officer or other commander. Thus, it should not attempt to execute its own sentence; as by adding to a sentence of dismissal of an officer—"and he is hereby dismissed accordingly,"¹ or, to a sentence imposing a fine, that the same be enforced in a particular mode or by a particular official.²

Nor, for the same reason, is it authorized to direct in a sentence—as one of forfeiture for example—that the offender be 'released from arrest, and returned or restored to duty;'³ nor can it direct the assignment or transfer of a convicted soldier to a particular regiment or organization;⁴ or that a soldier, sentenced to be dishonorably discharged, be furnished transportation to his place of residence;⁵ or that a soldier deemed insane be confined in an insane asylum.⁶

A court-martial, in awarding the *death* penalty, need not and should not designate in its sentence any time or place for execution;⁷ nor, in connection with a sentence of *imprisonment*, should it direct that the same be executed at a certain prison.

1. James, 630, 660, 661; Simmons § 669; De Hart, 197.

2. DIGEST, 268. It would be especially irregular for a court-martial to direct a proceeding against a convicted party which it is for the civil authorities to initiate. Thus, in a case in G. O. 16, Mountain Dept., 1862, where, to a sentence imposed upon an officer for embezzlement &c., it was added:—"And the court orders his property to be seized by the commanding officer of his post and held subject to future legal disposition," this action was properly disapproved by the reviewing authority and the matter of the seizure "respectfully referred to the U. S. District Attorney for action."

3. "This is transcending the province of a court-martial." G. O. Army of the Potomac, 1862. And see G. O. 65, Dept. of Ark., 1862, and other Orders noted under head of—"The sentence must constitute a criminal judgment," *ante*.

4. G. C. M. O. 408 of 1864.

5. G. O. 44, Dept. of the N. West, 1863.

6. G. O. 49, Dept. of the Susquehanna, 1864, cited *ante*.

7. DIGEST, 79. And see Tytler, 327; Griffiths, 87; De Hart, 197; also, as to the similar rule in civil cases, Com. v. Webster, 5 Cush. 1 Bishop, C. L. § 951; 1 Id., C. P., § 1311.

be specified:¹ these also are particulars properly to be determined by the reviewing officer.

Again the court may not trench directly or indirectly upon the *pardoning power* of the commander. This is in fact done where the court—as has occurred in some instances—declares that, in view of the long confinement undergone by the accused while awaiting trial, or some other circumstance indicated, it awards a sentence.² So, it is done, though less directly, where the court, because of the previous good record of the accused, or other attenuating circumstance foreign to the merits, is induced to judge a mild sentence quite out of proportion to the gravity of the offence committed. In such cases, as indicated in a previous part of this Chapter, the court practically invades the province of the commander, whose function alone it is to determine whether, for any cause, the sentence shall be mitigated or retorted.³

Further, a court-martial has of course no power to exercise, by sentence, any discipline or authority over the accused beyond the limits of his punishment, or over any other person within the command. Thus where to a sentence of reduction to the ranks it was added by the court that the accused be precluded from holding any position as a non-commissioned officer for six months, such addition was disapproved as unauthorized since the court could not prevent the regimental commander from promoting the accused if thought expedient.⁴ Similarly illegal was

¹ See G. O. 9, 16, Dept. of Ark., 1865; G. C. M. O. 12, 13, Dept. of Cal., 1882; Circ. 4, Dept. of Penna., 1865.

² In G. C. M. O. 8, Dept. of Cal., 1874, in a case in which the court, in view of the long confinement of the accused prior to trial, concluded to impose any punishment upon the conviction, the Dept. Commander, Gen. Schofield, remarked as follows:—"It is the duty of a court in all such cases to decide upon and award a sentence which shall be appropriate to the offence of which the prisoner shall have been convicted, and to leave to the Reviewing Authority—upon a proper representation of the facts through a recommendation to clemency or otherwise—to take such action as may seem to him demanded in the interests of justice." And see a similar case in G. O. 69, Dept. of Dakota, 1870.

³ In G. C. M. O. 163, Dept. of the Mo., 1882, Gen. Pope, referring to the discretion of the court as to the awarding of sentence, says:—"It is never contemplated that the exercise of this discretion should usurp or encroach upon the pardoning power, residing only with the reviewing authority or the Chief Executive." And see Do. 8, Dept. of Cal., 1874; Do. 57, Dept. of Dakota, 1867; Do. 20, Dept. of the South, 1866.

⁴ G. O. 10, Dept. of N. Mexico, 1865.

the action of a court, which, in imposing confinement, upon a conviction for drunkenness, added in the that the sutler should be ordered not to sell the accused thing on credit" thereafter.¹

It need scarcely be added that any direction in a sentence transcends the authority of the court, and encroaches upon the reviewing officer, may be wholly *disregarded* by him in his action upon the case.² He will properly, however, *disapprove* the objectionable portion.

The Sentence should be Consistent with the Finding

By this it is meant that the sentence must not impose a punishment not authorized by the finding. Thus, where there are several charges, and the accused is acquitted upon some and convicted upon others, the sentence must adjudge only such punishments as are authorized for the offences of which the accused is convicted; otherwise it will be inconsistent with the finding. So, where the finding upon a capital charge is Not Guilty of Conduct to the prejudice of good order and discipline, a sentence of death will be inconsistent with the finding and therefore illegal.

It should be Definite and Unambiguous in Terms

Where the punishment is one made mandatory upon the court there need be no question as to the form of expressing the sentence; it being proper and sufficient merely to specify the punishment by the word or words employed in the Article. If the sentence is discretionary, the punishment or punishment selected by the court should be stated in simple, clear, and unmistakable terms, and with such precision in regard to details as to convey the exact particulars intended to be conveyed to the court.³ Amounts of forfeitures and fines, numbers of files

1. G. O. 35, Army of the Potomac, 1862.

2. G. O. 9, 16, Dept. of Ark., 1865.

3. "A sentence, like any other writing, must, to be valid, be in terms that its meaning can be understood. And always the courts take especial care to make it precise and accurate." 1 Bishop, § 1297. "The sentence must be definite, exact, and peremptory." Wharton, C. P. & P. § 923. "It should obviously be expressed in clear and unambiguous language." Simmons § 644. "So that the degree of punishment shall be set forth definitely and precisely." De Hart, 196. A sentence of imprisonment that fails to fix the term is inoperative, and should be disapproved unless corrected on review." DIGEST, § 284.

and periods—years, months,¹ days,² &c.—of imprisonment, extension, &c., should be defined with especial certainty. As is usual but not essential—the *name* of the accused repeated in the sentence, it should be correctly given, and in a form that there will appear no material *variance* between sentence and the finding or charge.³

Further, where there are imposed two or more different punishments, the *order* of the execution of which will be material in fixing the status or rights of the accused, or the interests of service or of discipline, the sentence should be so framed as to indicate clearly the order in which the punishments are intended by the court to be executed. Thus where a soldier is sentenced both to dishonorable discharge and a term of confinement, if it is proposed by the court that the former punishment shall—as it is in general preferable that it should be—executed before the latter, the sentence should read that he be discharged and then confined, &c., or in terms to such effect.⁴

To be Entire and Single. In the absence of any statutory action on the subject, usage has established that the sentence

In the absence of any specific provision on the subject in our law, the word "*month*" or "*months*," as employed in sentences, is treated as meaning precisely what it means in ordinary parlance, and is held to mean in the civil practice, viz. *calendar* month or months. See DIGEST, also *Moore v. Houston*, 3 Sergt. & Rawle, 184; *Brudenell v. Vaux*, 114, 302; *Com. v. Chambre*, 4 Id. 143; *Sheets v. Selden*, 2 Wallace, 190. And note the Act of March 3, 1875, (applied to military cases in G. O. 64 of 1875,) in regard to credits for good conduct of five days each and every calendar month," &c.

In a case in G. O. 64, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1868, a sentence 'stand on a barrel three hours each day,' without adding the number of days, was properly held to be enforceable for one day only.

See cases of variance inducing a disapproval of the proceedings, recorded in DIGEST, 477; also cases in G. O. 6, Dept. of La., 1868, where the christian name of the accused was given as *James* in the specification and *John* in the sentence; and case in G. C. M. O. 117, Mil. Div. 10 & Dept. of Cal., 1881, where the same appeared in the specification and finding as *James W. F.*, and in the sentence as *William H. F.* There is a difference however in a middle initial is held to constitute no variance. DIGEST, 477, and authorities cited in note; also *Keene v. Le*, 3 Peters, 1; *Gaines v. Stiles*, 14 Peters, 322; *Lessee of Dunn v. Es*, 1 McLean, 321.

Where this is not done, it is in general to be inferred, and in our court practice *is* inferred, that the punishment first mentioned is the one intended to be first executed. See DIGEST, 234.

of a court-martial shall be, in every case, an *entirely*; that is to say that there shall be but a single sentence covering all the convictions on all the charges and specifications upon which the accused is found guilty, however separate and distinct may be the different offences found, and however different may be the punishments called for by the offences.¹

Not to State the Vote, except in a case of Death Sentence. Although not required by law—by Art. 96 or otherwise—it is the uniform practice to add to a capital sentence that the same is concurred in by two-thirds of the court. But in no other case can the vote be stated in the sentence; nor can it be stated that the vote was unanimous, without a violation of the member's oath prescribed by Art. 84.²

Sentences to be Separate for Joint Accused. Where several persons are charged and tried together for the same offence or offences, and all, or more than one, are convicted, separate sentences should be adjudged to each, precisely as if they had been separately tried. Different punishments may, and, when the measures of their criminality are materially different, should be imposed upon the several individuals, but, even though the same punishment be awarded to each, the sentences—like the finding—should be formally distinct.³

Cumulative Sentences, How to be Framed. Where a person, while under sentence of imprisonment, is again brought to trial and sentenced to a further measure of the same punishment, it is usual in the civil practice for the sentence to specify that the second imprisonment is to begin at the expiration of the first, indicating the date of such expiration.⁴ At military law

1. As to the civil practice, see Wharton, C. P. & P. § 910, 911; Bishop, C. P. § 1325-1334.

2. See similarly as to the statement of the Finding, in Chapter XII.

3. Where there are joint defendants, the sentence should be "in favour of several, not joint." 1 Bishop, C. P. § 1035. And see Wharton, C. P. & P. § 312, 314; U. S. v. Ismenard, 1 Cranch C. 150; Simmons § 64.

A joint sentence, where all are alike convicted of the same offence, would indeed be *legal* and operative at military law, though irregular and exceptional as to form.

4. See Wharton, C. P. & P. § 932; 1 Bishop, C. L. § 953.

er, it is not habitual, nor is it necessary, so to specify,¹ or rise to direct in terms that the second punishment, (of imprisonment, forfeiture, or suspension,) is to be executed as additive or continuous upon the first. It is sufficient and almost able to frame such punishment in the usual form, as an independent sentence; the mere fact that a similar sentence is given and being executed at the time determining of itself that the second sentence is to be treated not as concurrent but as a disjunctive or additional penalty of which the execution is to commence upon the completion of the first, *i. e.* when the same is terminated by the expiration, or by a remission or other action on the part of the reviewing or other superior authority. The second sentence is thus made cumulative simply by operation of law.² It may be added that a punishment, to be cumulative, must be capable of being independently executed. Where a court-martial has imposed upon an accused a penalty which, from its nature, cannot be executed more than once, as dishonorable discharge or forfeiture of all pay, and such penalty has been applied and has taken effect, it will be futile and superfluous to repeat it in framing a subsequent sentence. In such a case, the court-martial, in the first instance, have exhausted its power over the offender, so far as concerns the particular penalty.³

Sentence should not embrace Penalties resulting from Dereliction of Law. Thus the sentence of a deserter need not and should not contain a direction to the effect that he make good the time lost by his unauthorized absence,⁴ or that he incur the forfeitures specified in the Army Regulations,⁵ or that he

recent instances in which it was done in the sentence are found in G. O. 24, 39, Dept. of Cal., 1885.

DIGEST, 288-9, 449-450. The legal effect will be the same where an offender has been twice successively tried, and has received at each trial a term or quantity of the same punishment, but the first sentence has not been promulgated as approved, or has not commenced to be executed, at the date of the second sentence. Here the second sentence, if approved, will be cumulative upon the first. See par. 902, Army Regulations, containing ruling of the Sec. of War in concurrence with a pre-judicial opinion of the Judge Advocate General.

See case in G. O. 10, Dept. of W. Va., 1862.

G. O. 94, Dept. of the Mo., 1867; Do. 21, Dept. of the Lakes, 1873; G. O. 74, Dept. of the East, 1873; DIGEST, 21-22. It was formerly the rule. G. O. 45 of 1843.

DIGEST, 270; U. S. v. Landers, 92 U. S., 79. The special regu-

be subjected to the loss of civil rights prescribed by the statute law;—the same being all penal consequences attaching upon the (approved) conviction, independently of the sentence. So, in convicting an officer under Art. 6 or Art. 14, (providing for the punishment of false musters, &c.,) it is not essential to add, in connection with the dismissal to be adjudged, that the accused be disabled from holding office or employment in the public service, since this disability must necessarily result from the judgment of the court.

V. THE SPECIFIC PUNISHMENTS SEPARATELY CONSIDERED.

These will be presented in the following order:—I. Punishments legal and appropriate for officers: II. Punishments legal and appropriate for both officers and enlisted men: III. Punishments legal and appropriate for enlisted men only.

I. PUNISHMENTS LEGAL AND APPROPRIATE FOR OFFICERS

These are Dismissal or Cashiering, Disqualification for office, Suspension, Loss of relative rank or files, Reprimand or Admonition, and Apology.

Dismissal or Cashiering. Dismissal and cashiering were formerly regarded as quite distinct in military law; the latter involving, in addition to a dishonorable separation from the service, a disability to hold military office and thus constituting a more severe punishment than the former.² The two are now

lations referred to are pars. 215, 220, (as amended by G. O. 68 of 1881, 2456 and 2458.

1. By Secs. 1996, 1998, Rev. Sts. See DIGEST, 225; G. O. 170, Seventeenth Army Corps, 1863.

2. McNaghten, 12-16; Hough, 123-130; Maltby, 89, 92; O'Brien, 274-5; II Opins. At. Gen., 289; DIGEST, 141; G. O. 17, Dept. of Fla., 1866. Note also case in James, 377, and Simmons § 116, in which a sentence of cashiering was *mitigated* to dismissal.

A form of this punishment in Arts. 9 and 10, (Sec. I,) of Charles I., is to be "cashiered the army without pay or passport." In Art. 165 of the Code of Gustavus Adolphus is a peculiar provision, that a "superior officer" who "shall *solicit* for any man that is lawfully convicted a court-martial, "unless it be for his very neere kinsman for whom nature compels him to intercede, * * * shall be held as odious as the delinquent and *cashiered from his charge*."

ified as separate punishments in the British Army Act,¹ but in law and practice all such distinction has long ceased to be, cashiering having become identical with dismissal.* In all present Articles of war in which this punishment is named, except two—the 8th and 50th—"dismissed" is the word adopted, in those "cashiered" was retained apparently through inadvertence. In sentences of courts-martial, as also in the common ordinary parlance, "cashiering" or "cashiered" is now mostly used, and "*dismissal*" will therefore be here exclusively employed in treating of this punishment.

Dismissal by sentence, it need hardly be observed, is simply expulsion of the officer from the military service, carrying with it *no legal disability*.³ A dismissed officer is not as such disqualified to hold either military or civil office:⁴ disqualification for office is, in our military law, as will hereafter be noticed, a separate and distinct punishment.

Dismissal, to the exclusion of any other punishment, is *required*, by Arts. 5, 6, 8, 13, 15, 18, 26, 27, 28, 38 and 50, to be adjudged upon conviction of the offences in these Articles specified. It is also *legally imposable* upon conviction of any offences of which the punishment is made discretionary with the court, and therefore be adjudged under any of the Articles, other than the last named, which relate to the offences of officers—except Art. 57 which enjoins, exclusively, the death penalty.

Form of the sentence. The proper *form* of the sentence is—"he is dismissed," or "to be dismissed the service," or "to be dismissed the service (or 'military service') of the United States."

The term "dishonorably," though sometimes employed, need not be expressed, the notion of dishonor being necessarily implied in a dismissal by sentence. Nor, as it has already been said, is it proper to add—"and he is hereby dismissed accord-

Sec. 44.

De Hart, 194; Benét, 44; G. C. M. O. 103 of 1875; DIGEST, 141,

It entails merely, where adjudged on conviction of cowardice or, and after the sentence has been published as indicated in Art. 10, the loss of the privilege of associating with officers of the army.

DIGEST, 238-9. And see Sec. 1228, Rev. Sts. It is otherwise as *naval* officers, who, when dismissed by court-martial, cannot again re-enter the navy as officers. Sec. 1441, R. S.

ingly," since it is not the sentence that dismisses or can dismiss the officer, but the approval, or confirmation, of the reviewing authority.

When the dismissal is "for cowardice or fraud,"—as where it is adjudged on conviction of misbehaviour before the enemy in violation of Art. 42, or of some offence to the fraud of the United States, as presenting a fraudulent claim or embezzlement, in violation of Art. 60,—the sentence should "further direct" in regard to the publication of the crime, punishment, &c., as is prescribed in the 100th Article.

Execution of this punishment. This punishment is executed, by operation of law, immediately *upon approval or confirmation, and notice* to the officer. Upon the day of the official announcement to an officer of the approval or confirmation by the proper authority of a sentence dismissing him from the military service, his connection with the army at once ceases and he becomes a civilian. In some instances the day of actual notice will be the same as that of the final action giving effect to the sentence. In most cases, however, especially in time of peace when sentences of dismissal are required to be confirmed by the President at Washington, a certain period, often considerable, will in general elapse after the date of the confirmation and its promulgation in General Orders before the officer can be officially informed of the same. In such cases, the general rule is that the sentence shall be considered as taking effect on the day on which the Order, in and by which the sentence is thus confirmed, is promulgated at the post or station at which the officer is serving or held in arrest.¹ All military persons are in general bound to take notice of General Orders officially promulgated at their stations;² and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, an officer will be presumed to have been informed of an Order, confirming a sentence dismissing him from the service, on the day on which the same was published or received, at his post or station.³ It may happen, however—and this especially in time of war—that, on the day of promulgation or receipt, the officer may

1. See the general rule as stated in G. O. of Jan'y. 14, 1831, and D. 103 of 1864, and illustrated in G. C. M. O. 20 of 1874; Do. 42 of 1877; DIGEST, 236, 350-1.

2. See G. O. 2, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1865; O'Brien, 85.

3. DIGEST, 351; O'Brien, 85.

voluntarily absent so that he cannot in fact take notice of order. Thus he may be absent on some duty upon which, regularly or because of some emergency,) he has been ordered, may be absent sick in a distant hospital, or may be a prisoner in the hands of the enemy. In cases of this character, the fact of absence will rebut the presumption induced by the order, and the officer will, properly, not be charged with notice of the confirmation of the sentence, nor will his dismissal take effect until *actual* official notice of the same as confirmed is given him.¹

The phrase, sometimes added to the official approval of a dismissal, as published in General Orders, that the party 'ceases to be an officer of the army from the date of this order,' is surplusage, being no proper part of the action required, and of no legal effect in fixing the date on which the dismissal goes into operation.

The dismissal does or does not take effect at the date of the order according as the officer may or not receive official notice of the same on its date.

It need hardly be added that, even where a considerable delay without fault of the reviewing officer, occurred in acting on a sentence of dismissal, the same cannot legally be made, by the order of that officer, to take effect as of a date *prior* to that of his final action,—as of the date, for example, of the actual signing of the sentence by the court.²

Dismissal with ignominy. In time of war, courts-martial sometimes directed in sentences of dismissal that the same should be accompanied by certain minor penalties impressing the dismissal with an ignominious character—such as taking away or

DIGEST, 236, 351-2. And compare Simmons § 788; also Allstaedt v. U. S., 3 Ct. Cl. 290, where an executive order of dismissal was held to have taken effect, not at its date, but at the subsequent date of its receipt by the officer at his station. So, in Gould v. U. S., 19 Ct. Cl. 593, the use of an officer of volunteers mustered out and discharged during the war, but who did not receive notice of such action till at the end of several months, it was held that his discharge did not take effect till the notice reached him. Note also the similar principle incorporated in the Code of Art. of war, and recognized in Mimmack v. U. S., 97 U. S. 426; and in U. S. v. U. S., 6 Ct. Cl. 35; G. O. 103 of 1864,—that an officer's *resignation* takes effect not at the date of the order accepting it, but at the date on which he is officially notified of such order. Compare also G. O. of 1880.

DIGEST, 237. And see Allstaedt v. U. S., *ante*.

breaking the sword of the officer, or cutting off his shoulder strap or other *insignia* of rank, publicly in presence of the command to which he is attached.¹ In a few cases, upon conviction of misbehaviour before the enemy, it has been directed in the sentence that the officer be paraded in front of the command bearing a placard inscribed with the word "coward,"² and further even that he be drummed out of the service.³

Such additional penalties are commonly executed through the officer of the day or adjutant, after the reading of the order promulgating the approval of the dismissal, at a parade or on some other occasion of the formal assembling of the command.⁴

Disqualification for Office. This punishment, though formerly, by a provision of the British Mutiny Act, specifically legalized in cases of embezzlement and some offences of a similar nature, ceased subsequently to be thus authorized,⁵ and is not included in the list of legal punishments contained in the present Army Act.⁶ In the American civil courts, disqualification to hold office seems to have been recognized as a common-law punishment for treason,⁷ but does not appear to have been employed in other cases except where expressly authorized by statute.⁸ Sundry U. S. statutes,⁹ disqualification or ineligibility for office

1. See cases in G. C. M. O. 61, 117, 285, 315, 332, of 1865; G. O. 1, Mountain Dept., 1862; Do. 9, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1862; Do. 3, 60, Army of the Potomac, 1863; Do. 19, 27, Id., 1864; G. C. M. O. 1, Id., 1865; G. O. 3, Dept. of W. Va., 1863; Do. 73, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1864; Do. 29, Dept. of the Gulf, 1864; Do. 43, Dept. of La., 1864; Do. 8, Dept. & Army of the Tenn., 1865; G. C. M. O. 19, Dept. of Ky., 1865.

2. G. C. M. O. 332 of 1865; G. O. 19, 27, Army of the Potomac, 1864; Do. 73, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1864.

3. G. O. 73, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1864. In a case in G. O. 9, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1862, it was directed in the sentence that the officer, after being publicly stripped of his *insignia* of rank, be "conducted by the guard without the lines of the command."

4. See Order last cited; also G. O. 25, Mountain Dept., 1862.

5. Simmons § 668.

6. Sec. 44.

7. *Barker v. People*, 20 Johns. 451.

8. *Com. v. Jones*, 10 Bush, 725; *Brackett v. McCarty*, Id. 758.

9. Revised Statutes, Secs. 243, 1229, 1441, 1734, 1781, 1782, 1788, 1791, 2105, 2233, 2873, 3167, 3890, 4187, 4188, 4373, 4374, 5332, 5334, 5335, 5408, 5449, 5499, 5502, 5508, 5532. The disabilities attached by Sec.

is imposed not as a punishment but as a legal consequence of removal from office or conviction of crime in cases of civil

in military code, disqualification, (except as it may at an early period, have been involved in cashiering,) has never been formally authorized as a distinct punishment, though in some cases—articles—the present 6th and 14th for example, it has been treated as a legal consequence to the sentence of dismissal. The authority therefore for disqualification as a military punishment, its sentence must rest upon *usage*.

The case of a contractor tried in 1865 by a naval court-martial, (under the Act of July 17, 1862, s. 16,) and sentenced to be excluded from thereafter contracting for naval supplies, the Attorney General, in pronouncing against the legality of this sentence, said generally :—"A sentence of incapacity or disability does not fall within the range of discretionary punishments allowable by the usage of the service."¹ As a general proposition, then, this statement of the law is too broad.² In a previous

Order of the Navy Department,³ disqualification for office in the United States had been expressly recognized as an authorized punishment for naval courts-martial, and in the *army* series of precedents had given sanction to this form of

Prior to the late war, indeed, this punishment, though sometimes to time imposed, was not a common one.⁴ From ante-war times, however, in the war it was frequently resorted to, and, during the period from that date to March, 1870, (in which it was imposed and approved in two instances,) the author found some one hundred and twelve cases published in Orders, in which this penalty was adjudged by court-martial in connec-

tion with 18 to convictions for *desertion* have been elsewhere remarked

The early case mentioned in 2 Journals, 204, (1777,) Congress, in formally dismissing 12 Lieutenants of the Navy, rendered them at the same time "incapable of holding any commission or warrant under the laws of the United States."

1 Opins. 528. (1868.)

2 Had the ruling been confined to the sentence in the particular case, it scarcely have been subject to exception.

3 O. 44 of 1864.

4 The cases cited and remarked upon in author's note to DIGEST, 244.

tion with dismissal ;'—the disqualification pronounced being in most cases *general*, *i. e.* not confined to the holding of *military* office merely, but extending to the holding of *any* office under the United States.

In a case, however, published in a General Order of April, 1870,² the punishment of disqualification, (included by the court in its sentence,) was disapproved as "unauthorized by law;" and the same action was repeated in a case of a similar sentence in December following.³ Since the last date the punishment under consideration is not found to have been embraced in any sentence published in General Orders.

The disapproval in these cases is understood to have been induced by the ruling of the Attorney General above cited. But this ruling, as has been seen, was not properly applicable at least to sentences of disqualification in the army, and so far as usage and the practice of the Government could sustain such sentences, the same must be regarded as having been fully and amply sanctioned in our law.

But while this punishment has thus been sanctioned, and is one which might profitably be resorted to in aggravated cases of embezzlement, gross malfeasance in office, or other extreme offence exhibiting the offender to be quite unworthy to serve the United States at least in a military capacity, it is yet to be observed that the same, even though it were confined to military office only, would always remain objectionable as practically amounting to an inhibition for an indefinite period upon the appointing power of the Executive in the case of the officer, and thus constituting an exercise of authority apparently beyond

1. See the numerous cases collected in the author's note to DIGEST, 244-5. Those published, and approved, in the Orders cited of the War Dept., included such leading cases as those of Maj. Gen. Porter, Brig. Gens. Hammond and Briscoe, B. G. Harris, M. C., &c. In the case of the former, the disqualification imposed—"to be forever disqualified from holding any office of trust or profit under the Government of the United States"—was further recognized as legal by being expressly *re-mitted*, as a continuing punishment, by the President in 1882.

It may be added that disqualification could rarely be an appropriate punishment for an *enlisted man*. In one instance, in G. C. M. O. 98 of 1867, in which a soldier was sentenced, with confinement, "to be forever disqualified from holding any office above the rank of private in the U. S. army," this part of the sentence was very properly disapproved.

2. G. C. M. O. 22, H. Q. A.

3. G. C. M. O. 57, Id.

province of a court-martial. Were the disqualification limited to a certain term of years, as in some militia cases,¹ and the approval of the President required, as in cases of dismissal, to give the punishment legal effect, the objection indicated would be mainly done away with.

Execution. This punishment is executed in the same manner as dismissal, *i. e.* upon *official notice* of the approval of the sentence by the President or proper Commander, as given either by the formal order of promulgation of the proceedings, or otherwise. Upon the date of such notice the disqualification is complete, and thenceforward continues to be in force till removed by the pardoning power.

Suspension. This punishment, (no longer authorized by the British code,²) is impossible in our service for any offence of an officer³ of which the penalty is discretionary with the court. Though *recognized* in one of its forms—suspension from command—by the 101st Article of war,⁴ it in fact rests for its authority upon *usage*. It may be adjudged for any stated term of months or years.

Kinds of suspension. There are properly but two kinds of suspension of officers—suspension from rank and suspension from command. The former indeed includes the latter; that is to say, suspension of an officer from rank includes a suspension from each right of command, (and exercise of authority and performance of duty incident thereto,) as may be attached to his rank.⁵ "Suspension from the service" is a form which was once some-

1. See Militia Reporter, 145; Printed Trial of Maj. Gen. Goodale, (Mass. militia;) Printed Trial of Capt. S. Watson, *et al.* (Id.)

2. See Army Act, s. 44.

3. Suspension from rank (and pay) of *non-commissioned officers* was one time known to the British practice, (Simmons § 126; McNaghten, 37,) but is no longer authorized. (Army Act § 44.) In a few rare instances in our service, of which the latest known is a case in G. C. M. O., Dept. of the East, 1872, non-commissioned officers have been sentenced to suspension, but such punishment has no sanction in usage, and is not recognized in the Army Regulations, par. 896.

4. As also in Sec. 1326, Rev. Sts., relating to cadets of the Military Academy.

5. DIGEST, 468. And see O'Brien, 275.

times employed as substantially equivalent to suspension from rank but is now disused. "Suspension from duty" is more frequently resorted to in the navy¹ than in the army practice.² "Suspension from the Military Academy" is a punishment applicable to cadets, and which has the effect of suspending the party from the service as a cadet during the term judged.³ The '*suspension from pay*' indicated in Art. 101 is properly suspension in the legal sense but forfeiture. The term for the term is not merely *withheld*—the right to receive is not merely suspended or placed in abeyance—but the salary is absolutely forfeited precisely as in any case of a forfeiture expressed as such in the sentence.⁴ In suspending, however, an officer from command, a court-martial, in view of the provisions of the Article, is not, as it is held, empowered to suspend, (i. e., forfeit,) his pay for a period longer than the term of suspension from command.⁵

Suspension from rank. This punishment involves deprivation, during the period of the operation of the sentence, not only of the right of command but of all other rights and privileges incident to the rank, as such, of the officer, whether held in his relation to other officers or to enlisted men. It deprives him of any right of promotion accruing during the term of suspension to which he would have been entitled had he not been suspended, and causes the same to accrue to the officer next junior.⁶ It also deprives him of the right of priority and precedence in the exercise of the minor privileges of the office, such as the privilege of the selection of quarters where quarters have been selected anew pending the term of suspension.⁷ And it deprives him of any other right or privilege of priority, obedience, or deference which would otherwise have been due to his rank; the s

1. See Naval Regulations, Art. 32, s. 2; Harwood, 134-5.

2. It appears in Gen. Swaim's Case, G. C. M. O. 19 of 1865.

3. Where the suspension is for a considerable term, it is usually expressed in the sentence that at the end of such term the cadet shall join the next lower class. DIGEST, 471.

4. DIGEST, 470.

5. It was originally so held, in a case arising under a corresponding naval article, in IV Opins. At. Gen., 324.

6. McNaghten, 21; O'Brien, 275; G. O. of Jan. 23, 1811; DIGEST, 399, 468.

7. DIGEST, 469. And see *post*.

ith its incidents, remaining, during the term of the suspension, ~~ormant~~ and inoperative.

But rights incident to his *office*, independently of rank, he may still enjoy.¹ Thus his right to rise relatively or in files in his grade, (where a senior dies, resigns, or is dismissed, retired, or promoted,) is not affected by the suspension, this being a right incident to his *office*, according to the date of his commission.² ~~io~~, he may continue to occupy his proper quarters, (where no new selection of quarters involving him is required at his station,³) to purchase fuel, commissary stores, &c., from the proper officer, to draw his pay,⁴ (where the same is not expressly forfeited in the sentence according to Art. 101,) to receive his pecuniary or other allowances, &c.⁵

Suspension from command. This punishment merely deprives the officer of authority to exercise his proper military command, (devolving it upon his junior or some other officer specially assigned to the same,) and consequently of his right to give orders to, or exact obedience from, his inferiors, to convene the courts and boards which he would be empowered to convene by virtue of his command were he not suspended, to appoint or receive non-commissioned officers, to grant furloughs, make arrests, &c. It does not affect his right of promotion, or any military rights or privileges incident to rank or office or other than those attaching simply to command as such.⁶ It is thus not in general an appropriate punishment for a staff officer. It is also evidently considerably less severe punishment than suspension from rank.

Suspension in general. Suspension—it may be added—is not dismissal nor any degree of dismissal. It does not divest the officer of his office or commission, but only holds in abeyance the rights and functions attached to his rank or command.⁷ Though

1. DIGEST, 468. As to the effect of suspension upon the *office*, see *urther post*.

2. DIGEST, 468.

3. Where the quarters occupied by an officer under suspension from rank are selected by a senior, he must take such quarters as may be assigned him by the proper commander. See DIGEST, 469.

4. IV Opins. At. Gen., 444; VI Id., 203; DIGEST, 269.

5. McNaghten, 27; DIGEST, 470.

6. See DIGEST, 468, 469.

7. "Suspension from rank, though it has the effect of depriving an

pending the term of suspension he is not in a legal capacity to receive or execute orders pertaining to his military specialty, he yet remains subject to such orders as may properly be given him in his official or personal character, irrespective of rank,¹ as well as amenable to the jurisdiction of a court-martial for any military offence committed during such term.² The term being completed, he reverts to his former rank,³ as well as to his command if not meanwhile legally divested by superior authority. In the interim however he may be restored by the pardoning power, and his promotion by the appointing power will operate as a pardon and terminate the suspension.⁴ So the ordering of him by competent authority, (the officer who approved the sentence, his successor in command, or his authorized superior,) to resume command or to perform a duty incompatible with the terms of his suspension, will properly operate as a constructive pardon and relieve him from further punishment.⁵

Suspension, also, is not *arrest*, and does not, *per se*, authorize

officer for the time of his rank, and putting a stop to the ordinary discharge of his military duties, does not void his commission, annihilate the military character, or dissolve that connection which subsists between him and the sovereign." Tytler, 126. And see *Id.* 316. "It may be considered as borrowed from the ecclesiastical jurisdiction which admitted suspension as a minor excommunication." Sullivan, 88. Suspension is not expulsion; and the officer, although suspended, remains in legal contemplation, on the establishment, although his capacities for service are for the time gone." V Opins. At. Gen., 740. And see VI *Id.*, 715; Hough, (P.) 710; McNaghten, 20-21; Maltby, 33; De Hart, 56; DIGEST, 468.

1. Thus an officer under suspension may be ordered to change his station. So, he may be required to attend a court-martial as a witness. VI Opins. At. Gen., 714. In neither case is the status of suspension affected.

2. "An officer, though under suspension, does not cease to be an officer, subject to the military law and, in all things lawful, subject also to the order of the President." VI Opins. At. Gen., 715. And see Sullivan, 88; Tytler, 126-7; Hough, (P.) 710; McNaghten, 26; De Hart, 56; DIGEST, 468, 470; also case, in G. C. M. O. 12 of 1878, of an officer tried for and convicted of drunkenness while under a previous sentence of suspension. The suspended officer would indeed be liable to trial and punishment if he wilfully assumed to exercise any of the rights or functions of which his sentence of suspension had divested him.

3. "At the expiration of the term of suspension he becomes a perfect man again." Sullivan, 88. And see McNaghten, 27; DIGEST, 471.

4. IV Opins. At. Gen., 8.

5. Tytler, 126; McNaghten, 22; VI Opins. At. Gen., 715.

Commander to subject the officer to bodily restraint.¹ Courts-martial indeed sometimes add to a sentence of suspension that the officer shall remain confined to the limits of his post or station pending the period for which he is suspended.² In the absence of such direction, the officer, though not *entitled* thereto, has sometimes been allowed, upon application, to have a leave of absence for the period of the suspension.³

Suspension as a punishment in practice. Suspension has been viewed by some authorities as an objectionable punishment for the reason that it withdraws an officer from use and service while yet retaining him in the army—an abnormal and embarrassing status.⁴ In the British law, loss of relative rank has been substituted for it.⁵ In our present practice, however, suspension remains a not unfrequent and apparently a generally approved form of punishment.⁶ It is also resorted to as an appropriate minor penalty to which may be commuted a dismissal when the latter is deemed too severe a punishment.⁷

Execution of this punishment. As to its mode of execution, suspension, like dismissal, is executed, or rather commences to be executed, upon *notice* to the officer of the due approval of the sentence. From and after the date of the order promulgating the approved sentence if communicated to him upon its date, or the subsequent date upon which such order, or

1. DIGEST, 469.

2. As to the expediency of this form of the sentence, see G. O. 4 of 1843; Do. 68, Navy Dept., 1865.

3. DIGEST, 469. In G. O. 42, Dept. of Washington, 1866, a regimental quartermaster, sentenced to suspension from rank for six months, was "permitted," by the Dept. Commander, "after turning over all property and moneys in his hands, to leave the department during the period of his suspension."

4. See Simmons § 115, note; De Hart, 55-58; Benét, 39; G. O. 43 of 1852. As to the injurious effect of the exceptionally protracted suspension in Gen. Swaim's case, see remarks of President Arthur in the G. C. M. O. noted *post*.

5. Army Act, s. 44. See "Loss of relative rank or files," *post*.

6. In the recent case of Gen. Swaim, (G. C. M. O. 19 of 1885,) a sentence—"To be suspended from rank and duty for twelve years, and to forfeit one half his monthly pay every month for the same period," was fully approved by the President.

7. In which case the status of the officer is the same as if originally sentenced to a suspension for the same term. DIGEST, 470.

other official information of the approval, is actually personally made known to him, the term of the suspension begins, and runs on to its end.

Loss of Relative Rank or Files. This species of punishment, in substance legalized by the British code,¹ is, with us, sanctioned by the established usage of the service.² In our practice the punishment consists simply in subjecting the officer, if a *line* officer, to lose a certain number of "files" or "steps" in the list, or to be placed at the bottom of the list, of officers of his rank in his regiment, arm, or corps. In resorting to the milder form of the punishment, the position on the list intended to be assigned the offender is in general specifically indicated by designating the inferior *number* which he is in future to have, or by some such addition as—"so that his name shall appear (or be borne) on the Army Register next below (or above) that of A. B., (a certain officer named.)"

The effect of this punishment is to deprive the officer of such relative right of promotion, as well as relative right of command and of precedence on courts or boards and in choosing quarters, &c., as he would have had, had he remained at his original number. It cannot, however, affect his right to pay or allowances.³

Like suspension, this punishment has, in some General Orders,⁴ been declared to be an objectionable one, on account of the inequality of its effect upon the other officers in the list.⁵ But, like suspension also, though less frequently adjudged, it holds its place among the approved minor punishments for officers. It may, however, in some cases operate with more severity than suspension, since, unlike the latter, it has no fixed term but is a "continuing" punishment subsisting till removed by the pardoning

1. It is designated in the Army Act, s. 44, as—"Forfeiture of seniority of rank in army or corps or both."

2. DIGEST, 311-312. And see XII Opins. At. Gen., 547.

3. DIGEST, 312; XII Opins. At. Gen., 547-8.

4. See G. C. M. O. 25 of 1873; Do. 2, Dept. of Dakota, 1873. But in G. O. 43 of 1852, a preference was expressed for it over suspension, by the Secretary of War.

5. See further, in DIGEST, 312.

xx.² As remarked of suspension, it is sometimes resorted to in lieu of commutation for a more severe penalty, as dismissal.²

Execution of the punishment. This punishment, like disallowance and suspension, begins to be executed and to take effect at once from the date of the Order promulgating the approved sentence, or the date of the personal and official notice to the officer of the due approval of the same.³

Reprimand or Admonition, and Apology. Reprimand is one of the punishments enumerated in the Army Regulations, (1896,) as legal for *enlisted men*. Inasmuch, however, as it is rarely adjudged offenders of this class, and is especially appropriate for cases of officers,⁴—it is preferred to consider it in connection with the punishment of officers. This punishment is in terms recognized as a penalty for officers by the British code,⁵ and in our law is established by usage whenever the sentence is discretionary with the court. Though usually awarded for offences deemed materially excusable,—as where the offender has acted without bad motive, or upon a misconception of law or fact, or under extreme provocation,⁶ &c.,—and intended as a light penalty,⁷ it is yet one in which the quality must necessarily be left to the discretion of the authority who executes it. The court-martial, in imposing a reprimand, may direct that it

XII Opins. At. Gen., 547; DIGEST, 311, 358.

In G. G. M. O. 21 of 1868, a sentence of cashiering is commuted to the following terms:—"That he," (naming the officer,) "shall be placed at the foot of the list of second lieutenants, forfeiting all rank and emoluments and privileges arising from services rendered previous to the date of the promulgation of this sentence." The statement, however, of the consequence of the action is of course surplusage. In a recent case, in G. G. M. O. 53 of 1883, a sentence of dismissal is commuted (in part) to—"reduction in lineal rank to the foot of the list of lieutenant colonels of infantry."

² See "Execution of punishment of dismissal," *ante*.

³ That reprimand is not a regular or appropriate punishment for enlisted men, see Harcourt, 171; Hughes, 94; Bombay R., 37; Macomb, G. O. 31, Dept. of the N. West, 1864; Do. 149, Dept. of the Gulf, 1865; Do. 7, Dept. of Arizona, 1870.

⁴ It is designated as "Reprimand, or Severe Reprimand." Army Regulations, s. 44.

⁵ See Trial of Capt. S. Watson, (Mass. militia,) p. 100. (1811.)

⁶ Maltby, 96.

be either *public* or *private*,¹ according as it is contemplated it shall be administered in public before the command² established in General Orders, or shall be given by way of preproof by the commanding officer in the absence of witnesses. Sentences of private reprimand, though once not unusual, are now most rare in practice. The more frequent form of sentence is—"to be reprimanded in General Orders," or "to be reprimanded" simply. A designation of the authority by which the reprimand is to be administered is sometimes added, as "by the general commanding," "by the Secretary of War," &c. but however is not necessary, the duty properly devolving in such cases upon the legal reviewing authority—the officer who commands the court or his successor for the time being.⁴ This officer, if not designated, if any one:⁵ for the court indeed to designate another officer as the person to execute the sentence would be irregular and unauthorized,⁶ and such action would properly be disregarded: the best form is to make *no* designation.

Further, the court in its sentence cannot properly direct the terms of the reprimand, nor as to the time or place at which it is to be given.⁷ These are matters which belong to the discretion of the reviewing officer.

Admonition is but a milder form of reprimand.⁸ A sentence "to be admonished" is an indication that the court deems

1. Adye, 221; Tytler, 317; Simmons § 115, 670; Maltby, 97; Macomb, 61; O'Brien, 275; De Hart, 194.

2. In the early case of Col. Debbiegg, (2 McArthur, 383,) the court sentenced the accused "to be reprimanded in open court," and the reprimand was thereupon administered by the president of the court. This form is now unknown.

3. See instances of sentences "to be *privately* reprimanded" in 45, Dept. of Washington, 1863; Do. 13, Dept. of Va., 1866; Do. 1, Dept. of the East, 1867; and in the published naval Trials, in 1, Capt. Gordon, (p. 440,) and Capt. Hull, (p. 474.)

4. See DIGEST, 428.

5. G. C. M. O. 83, Dept. of the Mo., 1871.

6. In a case in G. O. 15 of 1852, in which a court, convened by the department commander, sentenced an accused "to be reprimanded in General Orders from the War Department," it was held by the Secretary of War that the court could not properly remove the execution of the sentence from the department commander, who was the legal reviewing officer, to the War Department, and that the sentence was therefore in this respect irregular.

7. Simmons § 670; Tytler, 317; Maltby, 97; Macomb, 62.

8. Other forms of this sentence which have been resorted to

fence to be one of a comparatively trivial character.' To sentence an officer, convicted of a serious offence, merely to be reprimanded or admonished, is a mockery of justice.'

Execution of the punishment. In cases of light offences, has been a not unusual form for the reviewing officer, in approving the sentence, to add in the order:—"The publication of this order will be a sufficient reprimand," (or "admonition,") in terms to such effect; this constituting the entire execution of the sentence.³ In cases of more serious offences, the order commonly proceeds to administer a specific reprimand; and in some marked precedents very severe reprimands, in the course of which the merits of the case are reviewed and commented upon, have been pronounced and promulgated to the army.⁴ In a few instances the reviewing authority has directed that the reprimand be administered by an inferior commander. *Private* reprimands are executed in such form and at such time and place as the approving authority may in his discretion select.

Apology. Courts-martial have sometimes required in sentences that the accused make an oral apology, generally in public, to another military person, commonly a superior, for disrespectful words, unjust imputations, or other personally offensive and improper language or conduct.⁵ The sentence, however, may

twice may here be noticed—as: "to be severely reprimanded," G. O. 1, Dept. of the Tenn., 1863; "to be slightly reprimanded," G. O. 7, Army of the Potomac, 1862; "to be reprov'd," G. O. 5 of 1857; "to be censured in Orders by the Reviewing Authority," (the President,) G. C. M. O. 37 of 1885. In G. O. 51 of 1863, an officer convicted of leaving his men to pillage, is sentenced to be publicly reprimanded and instructed" by the colonel of the regiment.

1. See O'Brien, 276. In a recent case in G. C. M. O. 28 of 1880, the sentence adjudged on conviction of a slight offence, is—"To be privately admonished by the commanding general."

2. See cases in G. O. 64, 68, of 1843; Do. 39 of 1845; Do. 21, Dept. of the Tenn., 1863; Do. 22, Dept. of the Platte, 1867—in which sentences of reprimand, imposed on conviction of grave offences, are disapproved and commented upon as inadequate.

3. G. O. 25 of 1830; G. C. M. O. 19 of 1871; Do. 109 of 1875; G. O. 5, Dept. of Alaska, 1868.

4. As in G. C. M. O. 34 of 1872; Do. 3 of 1873; Do. 20, 21, 36, Navy Dept., 1881; Do. 1, Id., 1883.

5. Simmons § 670, 671; Hough, (P.) 658; James, 56; O'Brien, 68.

require that the apology be tendered in writing. In some cases the court has dictated the terms in which the apology should be expressed, or directed that it be dictated by a commanding officer.¹ The British precedents, (which are few in number,) seem to be all cases of officers. In our service the precedents have been nearly all cases in which *soldiers* have been sentenced, in connection with some other punishment, to tender apologies (or ask pardon of,) *non-commissioned officers*.² This punishment, however, like reprimand, is regarded as a more appropriate one for officers than for enlisted men.³ It is now indeed almost wholly disused in practice.

1. See authorities cited in last note. The most marked case is that of Col. Debbiegg, fully reported in 2 McArthur, 383. Here the accused, for disrespectful conduct to his commander, the Duke of Richmond, was sentenced to be reprimanded in open court, "and to make his submission" to that officer; the court dictating the form of submission (apology, in which the accused was caused to 'declare his great concern that he should have made use of expressions in his correspondence with his superior officer which, in the opinion of the court, tended to the prejudice of good order and military discipline.' This apology was read by the accused, in open court, before his commander present as prosecutor, who thereupon expressed to the court his acceptance of the apology, adding—like a true nobleman and gentleman—"and I pray Col. Debbiegg that he shall never trace in my behaviour any ungenerous recollection of this transaction."

Samuel, (p. 379,) reports a remarkable case of a British Lieut. Colonel, tried in this country during our revolutionary war, for striking a subaltern, and sentenced to suspension; the court adding in the sentence that the junior officer "should draw his hand across the face of the Lt. Col., before the whole garrison, in return for the insult he had received."

2. See cases in G. O. of April 24, 1841; Do. 70 of 1864; Do. Middle Dept., 1864; Do. 22, Dept. of the East, 1869. In a further case, of a civil employee directed to apologize to an officer, in G. C. O. 22, Dept. of Ky., 1865, the apology was directed by the court to be made "in the presence of the commanding general of the post."

Cases of sentences to ask pardon are few. In James, 58, is one of a captain sentenced to ask pardon of the major of the regiment. In G. O. 45, Dept. of the South, 1862, is a case of a private sentenced, (in addition to confinement on bread and water,) to ask pardon of a *sergeant*, in the presence of the regiment, for disrespectful language addressed to him.

In this connection may be noted the provision of the 25th Article of war, that a soldier using "reproachful or provoking speeches or gestures" shall be "confined, and required to ask pardon of the person offended in the presence of his commanding officer;" this provision, however, being apparently intended to be exacted as a matter of official discipline without a resort to trial by court-martial.

3. In the case, above cited, in G. O. 5, Middle Dept., 1864, the

PUNISHMENTS LEGAL AND APPROPRIATE FOR BOTH OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN.

The punishments of this class are Death, Fine, Forfeiture and imprisonment.

Death. It is provided in Art. 96 that—"No person shall be sentenced to suffer death except * * * in the cases *expressly mentioned*" in the code. This punishment is so mentioned—(1,) in Art. 57, and in Sec. 1343, Rev. Sts., where it is specifically *required* to be adjudged upon conviction, to the exclusion of any lesser penalty; (2d,) in Arts. 21, 22, 23, 39, 41, 42, 43, 44, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51 and 56, where it is in terms *authorized to be inflicted* at the discretion of the court. In a further Article, 58th, this penalty, though not *named*, is yet *in effect required* to be imposed upon conviction of offences made capital by the *al* law.

This last article, however, is operative only "in time of war, correction, or rebellion." So, it is only at a similar period that death sentences are, by the provisions of Arts. 47, 49, 50 and 51, and Sec. 1343, authorized to be resorted to. Further, the acts punishable in Arts. 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 56 and 57 are offences which, from their nature, would scarcely be committed except pending a state of war; and, as to the offences designated in Arts. 21, 22, 23 and 39, for which death may at *any* time be adjudged, these, in time of peace, will most rarely be so aggravated as to induce a court-martial to assign the extreme penalty. The result is that this punishment is, in our military law and practice, reserved almost exclusively for the purposes of the administration of justice in time of *war*. About 550 death sentences imposed by courts-martial during the late war are published in the General Orders of the War Department alone.¹

One, adjudged a private, to make apology to a corporal "in front of parade," was disapproved, for the reason that it was "one which should not be executed except by the act of the prisoner, and could only be enforced by imprisonment which might be perpetual."

An additional large number appear published in the G. O. of the different departments and armies, issued during the late war. A further greater number are to be found in the Orders promulgating the proceedings of cases tried by Military Commissions, where, however, the offences were mostly civilians. A very considerable proportion indeed of these sentences were commuted or remitted.

Our code does not prescribe in any case¹ what form of penalty shall be imposed. It would therefore be strictly legal a court-martial to sentence simply that the offender be put 'with death,' the authority empowered to approve the sentence thereupon directing as to the mode—shooting or hanging—the usage of the service, in the absence of statutory requirement has designated as appropriate to the particular offence. It is, however, the court invariably specifies the form of penalty, adjudging in general that the accused be *shot* when convicted of desertion, mutiny, or other purely military offence, that he be *hung* where convicted of a crime other than murder, as murder, rape, or the crime of the spy.²

It is required by Art. 96 that two thirds of the members of the court shall concur in a death sentence. It has hence been *usual*, though it is not *essential*, for the court to add to its sentence—"two thirds of the members present concurring," terms to such effect.

Execution. The reviewing authority, on approving the sentence, will designate such time and place as the convenience and interests of the service may dictate. Where, on account of exigency, it is found impracticable to proceed with the execution at the time named or at the place selected, another time or place may at the earliest opportunity be indicated, and the execution legally proceed according to the new designation.³ By the authority, an inferior commander—as the officer in command of the post, or of the regiment, brigade, &c., at which the prisoner

1. Except as indirectly indicated in Art. 58.

2. Deserters *to the enemy* have sometimes been sentenced to be executed. The death penalty is usually unaccompanied by any other penalty. In a case in an early G. O. of Dec. 9, 1820, the court sentencing a mutineer to be *hung*, added—"and that his body be turned over to the surgeons of the post for dissection." No other such case, however, has been met with. An authority similarly to direct the execution of persons convicted of murder, was conferred upon U. S. courts by a provision of an Act of 1790, now contained in Sec. 5340, Rev. Stat. a case in G. O. 39, Dept. of W. Va., 1864, tried by a military commission, the sentence is—"to be hung to a tree and left hanging with an inscription, 'Murderer of a Union soldier';" to which is added the commission the recommendation "that the building in which the offender was committed be burned to the ground."

3. See DIGEST, 79; also case of *Coleman v. Tennessee*, in 9 Reports, 519, and XVI Opins. At. Gen., 349, in which it was held that a capital sentence, adjudged a soldier by court-martial is

held or to which he belongs—may be, and usually is, ministerially charged with the direction of the act of execution.¹

In the absence of an army regulation prescribing a ceremonial for the execution of a capital sentence, the form may be varied in its details at the discretion of the commander, as the want of proper facilities or the exigencies of the service may require, and, in time of war, the procedure is often materially simplified. According to the general usage, where the death penalty is to be inflicted by *shooting*, the prisoner, accompanied by the chaplain, is conducted by a detachment, including a firing party and coffin bearers, and headed by the provost marshal or other officer and band playing the Dead March, to an open space on three sides of which the command is formed facing inwards. The prisoner being placed, the charge, finding, sentence and orders are read aloud. The firing is directed by the officer, and, the execution being completed, the command breaks into column and marches past the body. In a case of *hanging*, the command is "formed square on the gallows as a centre," and, after similar preliminaries, an "executioner," under the direction of the officer in charge, "performs his office."²

Fine. This punishment is specifically designated by Art. 60 of the code as a punishment suitable for embezzlement and other crimes upon the government. It is also recognized in Art. 83, relating to inferior courts-martial, where however it is viewed in practice as substantially synonymous with forfeiture of pay. It is wholly imposable wherever the punishment is discretionary with the court, but is especially appropriate to those offences which consist in a misappropriation or misapplication of public funds or property, being in general adjudged with a view mainly to the reimbursement of the United States for some amount illegally diverted for private purposes. Where indeed the pecuniary liability of the

5, but not executed by reason of his escape and the pendency of civil proceedings in his case, might legally be executed in 1879; and this although the soldier had meanwhile been discharged from the service.

See Maltby, 104-5.

See Simmons § 759, 760; 2 McArthur, 345-7; Maltby, 104-8; De Witt, 247-8. And note in this connection 2 McArthur, 395-6, and Keble's Celebrated Naval & Military Trials, 88, 255, as to the impressive ceremonial upon the execution of the death sentence in the case of General Byng, and in that of Richard Parker, leader in the Mutiny at More.

offender is comparatively slight, forfeiture of pay, as being readily executed, is a penalty preferable to fine; but the amount of pay due at the time of the sentence to the officer or soldier will in general be quite inadequate to meet considerable obligation. In aggravated cases of embezzlement by disbursing officers—in whose cases this punishment is mostly resorted to—very heavy fines have been found to measure the total extent of the spoliation of the treasury of the convict.¹

Execution. Fine can in general be effectually executed by means of imprisonment superadded in the sentence as in the case of a civil offender, and is treated under the next head. In the absence of any such addition, the military authorities cannot of course legally at once enforce the fine by any restraint of the person, seizure of property, or other forcible act.² A fine duly adjudged by a military court-martial may, in the opinion of the author, legally be collected by a suit commenced in a U. S. court, as in the case of a civil offender in the United States: no instance however of such a suit is known in practice.

Fine and Imprisonment. “The ordinary and appropriate common-law punishment for misdemeanor is fine and imprisonment, or either of them at the discretion of the court.”³

1. In cases published in G. C. M. O. 196 of 1864; Do. 187 of 1871, respectively, fines of \$35,000, \$45,000, and \$445,000 were adjudged disbursing officers convicted of misappropriation. Also in this connection, cases in G. O. 55, Dept. of Ala., 1865; Do. 8, 1866, where fines, respectively, of \$90,000 and \$250,000 were imposed upon military commissions upon civil officials convicted during the late war of conspiring to defraud the U. S. of the value of captured cotton.

In a recent case, in G. C. M. O. 24 of 1878, where the fine was for the amount of a trust fund justly due from the accused, the court added to the sentence—“together with interest thereon, from June 1, 1864, to the date of payment; said interest to be computed at *six per cent per annum*.”

2. Orders to such effect were in some cases made, during the late war—see G. O. 61 of 1865; Do. 71, Dept. of the Mo., 1863; Do. 1, Dept. of the Gulf, 1864.—but were unauthorized as adding to the punishment.

3. 1 Bishop, C. L. § 940. “It is a settled principle that every offence exists to which no specific punishment is affixed by statute is punishable by fine and imprisonment. This is so invariably true in all cases where the Legislature prohibit any act without annexing a punishment, the common law considers it an indictable offence.”

ry code, the 60th Article makes, specifically, the offences n described punishable "by fine or imprisonment," and, convictions under this, and other articles of the code where nishment is discretionary, the two penalties are frequently ned in the sentence. In the military, as in the civil, pro- e, where a fine is imposed, it commonly is, and in general rly should be, added in the judgment that the party shall prisoned till the fine is paid.¹ But, especially as there is excess known to the military law by which a convict, desti- f means, can, because of his inability, be relieved from an onment imposed for the enforcement of a fine,² it is usual roper in a military sentence to declare that such an impris- at shall not exceed a certain term of months or years; other- the pardoning power not intervening—the confinement : be indefinitely prolonged. When the imprisonment is led to be inflicted for a separate purpose of additional pun- nt, as well as with a view to induce the payment of the fine, rm commonly adopted is to adjudge it for a certain period rtely, and for such further period as the fine may remain d—the latter period, however, not to exceed a certain term ied, or the whole not to exceed a certain term in all.³

to the breach the penalty of fine and imprisonment." Story J., *S. v. Coolidge*, 1 Gallison, 493.

as to the rule in the civil practice, see *Rex v. Bethel*, 5 Mod. 21 ; op, C. P. § 1301. In G. C. M. O. 27 of 1872, the Secretary of War roves the omission "in the sentence of any direction that the er should be confined until he should have made restitution to the l States of the amount of public money found to have been embez- Without this provision in a sentence there is no means, in the case officer not bonded, of enforcing such restitution beyond the extent pay." And see the earlier G. O. 61 of 1865, on the same subject. ome cases, in directing that the offender shall be imprisoned till e is paid, the court has restricted the period by adding—"abating me at the rate of five (or other number of) dollars *per* day," or in to such effect. See G. C. M. O. 633 of 1865 ; Do. 88, Dept. of 1865 ; G. O., 4 Mil. Div. of the Tenn., 1866. In G. C. M. O. 17, of Miss., 1865, a form of sentence is—to be fined three hundred s, and to be imprisoned "one day for every two dollars of said r any part thereof that remains unpaid."

By Sec. 1042 and 5296, Rev. Sts., provision is made for the dis- e of poor convicts, sentenced by federal courts to be fined and im- ed till their fines are paid.

in this class of military sentences, a provision as to the proportion- atement of the fine is added even more frequently than in the f cases of fine and imprisonment last above referred to. See, for

MILITARY LAW.

Imprisonment. This punishment, indifferently also styled *confinement* in the military practice, is in terms recognized in Arts. 17, 60, 83 and 97, and indirectly in Art. 84. It enforces further sanctions its imposition by general courts-martial upon officers as well as soldiers, in all cases in which a sentence is left to the discretion of the court; confinement in a *military* prison, however, being restricted to cases of the kind specified in Art. 97. Imprisonment, where adjudged to *offset* a crime, is almost invariably combined with dismissal: the party is not subjected to the confinement as an officer, but as a criminal. The old rule that a commissioned officer could not properly be imprisoned is thus substantially observed. Where adjudged to *non-commissioned officers*, it is properly accompanied by a reduction to the ranks.²

There are five species of this punishment now recognized in military law: Simple confinement; Confinement at hard labor; Confinement in a penitentiary; Solitary confinement; Confinement on bread and water diet. The two latter, however, are not now expressed in par. 896, Army Regulations, reserved for *prisoners of war* alone, and will be considered among the punishments appropriate to that class.

Simple confinement. This is either confinement in a guard-house, imposed for slight offences, or confinement in a military prison. Where the latter is imposed, the usual form of the sentence, in general terms,—“To be confined at such prison,

² See cases in G. C. M. O. 159, 266, of 1865; Do. 31 of 1866; Do. 107 of 1867; G. O. 22, 38, Northern Dept., 1865. In G. C. M. O. 155 of 1865, a sentence imposing a fine of \$5000 and a certain term of imprisonment in which it is added that if the fine is not paid at the expiration of each term, the party shall be confined “one year additional for every thousand dollars until it is paid.”

³ The British Army Act § 44, authorizes, among the punishments, imprisonment, with or without hard labor, for a term not exceeding two years.

⁴ See Art. 887; De Hart, 58, 195; G. O. 11, Dept. of the Cumberland; G. C. M. O. 112, Dept. of the Mo., 1871; Do. 33, Dept. of the Mo., 1873.

⁵ Sometimes expressed in the sentence under the form of—“To be kept under charge of the guard at his station,” or “at the post where he is serving,” (for a certain period,) or in terms to a similar effect. A milder and form of “confinement,” sometimes imposed, which is rather a deprivation of privilege than confinement, is—“to be confined to the limits of the post.”

per se, a restraint on the person, and in the majority of two penalties—confinement and hard labor—are now combined in the same sentence; the usual form being: 'confined at hard labor,' (in prison or guard-house,) for a specified term. Confinement in a military prison is now rarely awarded without the addition of hard labor. or, being a separate penalty, must be expressed in terms of sentence, or it cannot be administered,⁴ except—as will be noticed—where necessarily involved in the peculiar form of punishment adjudged, as in the case of confinement in a penitentiary or at the Leavenworth prison.

Confinement in a penitentiary. This form of imprisonment had previously been recognized by the legal authorities as a punishment sanctioned by usage for military offenders,⁵ and was specifically authorized and provided for in a section of an Act of Congress of July 16, 1862, now incorporated in the 97th Article of War.

In some instances during the late war persons were sentenced by military authorities to be confined in a "fort" or "fortress." See Vallandigham's case, in G. O. 68, Dept. of the Ohio, 1863.

DIGEST, 284.

Penalties of the kind are now expressed simply of "hard labor," or of "hard labor on the public works" or of certain particular labor or labor on particular works—as on forts, bridges, roads, &c., or in breaking stone—unconnected in fact with confinement, were not unfrequently imposed during the war. See G. O. 11, Dept. of the Mo., 1862; Do. 72, Id., 1866; Do. 101, Id., 1867; Do. 101, 102, Dept. of the East, 1864; G. C. M. O. 101, Dept. of the Potomac, 1864.

Exceptional sentences of this class are found in the early Orders—No. 31, 1820, and Do. 56 of 1824—as follows: To serve at hard labor for a certain term "with an iron collar around his neck weighing 15 lbs;" and to similarly serve, "chained to a wheelbarrow."

See DIGEST, 286; Simmons § 684; Clode, M. L., 171. The two punishments are referred to as distinct in our 83d Article, in par. 896, Army Regulations in the British Army Act § 44.

See also *ex v. Hoover*, 20 Howard, 65; IX Opins. At. Gen., 80; X Id.,

cle of war¹—as follows :—“*No person in the military service shall, under the sentence of a court-martial, be punished by confinement in a penitentiary, unless the offence of which he may be convicted would, by some statute of the United States, or by some statute of the State, Territory, or District in which such offence may be committed, or by the common law, as the same exists in such State, Territory, or District, subject such convict to such punishment.*”

The effect of this statute is to prohibit the infliction of penitentiary confinement except in cases of certain *civil* offences cognizable by court-martial. That is to say, while such confinement cannot legally be adjudged or executed upon military persons convicted of purely military offences such as desertion, mutiny, cowardice, disobedience of orders, &c., it may legally be adjudged or executed upon those convicted of any civil crime cognizable under Art. 62 as being prejudicial to good order and military discipline, or of the stealing, embezzlement, or kindred offence made punishable by Art. 60, or—in time of war—of any of the offences specified in Art. 58,—provided, of course, the particular offence is one which, by U. S. statute or the local law, may be visited with such confinement.²

By the term “*penitentiary*,” as used in the Article, is understood any public civil prison—as the U. S. penitentiary in the District of Columbia, or the prisons “erected by the United States”³ in the several Territories, or those established by the laws of the different States⁴—in which prisoners are subjected to a course of discipline and labor. A sentence of confinement in a penitentiary is one in which the penalty of “hard labor” is

1. Appropriation is annually made by Congress, generally in the “*sanitary civil*” appropriation Act, for the cost of the “care, clothing, maintenance, and medical attendance,” of military convicts confined in State penitentiaries, under this Article of war.

2. DIGEST, 80-81; G. O. 4 of 1867; Do. 21, Dept. of the Platte, 1866; Do. 21, Id., 1871; Do. 44, Eighth Army Corps, 1862; G. C. M. O. 34, 35, 43, 46, 72, 73, Dept. of the Mo., 1870. And see *Ex parte Mason*, 105 U. S. 700, in which the subject has recently been fully passed upon.

3. See Sec. 1892, Rev. Sts.

4. DIGEST, 81. And see par. 910, Army Regs. The penitentiary at Albany, New York, has been resorted to more frequently than any other State institution. In the recent case of Sgt. Mason, (G. C. M. O. 26, Dept. of the East, 1882,) the order as to the execution of the confinement in a penitentiary adjudged by the court, is—“Subject to the approval of the Secretary of War, the penitentiary at Albany, N. Y., is designated as the place of execution.”

necessarily involved,¹ and in which therefore it need not be added in terms.

The usual form in which this punishment is adjudged in a sentence of a court-martial is—‘To be confined (for a certain term specified) in such penitentiary as the reviewing (or proper) authority may designate.’² A sentence of confinement expressed in general terms, as—“in such *place*,” &c., might indeed legally be executed in a penitentiary if the offence found were such as to authorize it;³ the preferable form, however, is as first given. Dismissal in the case of an officer, and dishonorable discharge in that of a soldier, should be *added* in a sentence imposing this form of confinement.⁴

Term of imprisonment in general. The term of imprisonment imposable by a general court-martial is, (except in the two minor species of confinement appropriate to enlisted men only,) limited neither by law nor usage; no scale of imprisonments for different offences or offenders, or even maximum or minimum punishments, (except inferentially under Art. 58,) having been enacted by statute or established by custom. Imprisonments for ten, fifteen, eighteen, and twenty years,⁵ and even for life,⁶ were in some instances imposed during the late war for specially aggravated crimes. To be imprisoned “during the war” was at

1. *Millar v. State*, 2 Kans. 174.

2. A usual form in the Navy, where the fleet, &c., is at sea or in a foreign port, is—‘To be confined on board such vessel, (of the —— Squadron,) as the Commander-in-chief of the Station may direct, until such time as he may be sent to the United States in a public vessel; and then in a penitentiary to be designated by the Secretary of the Navy.’

3. DIGEST, 81.

4. See G. O. 36, 58, 72, Army of the Potomac, 1862; Do. 50, Id., 1864.

5. See instances in G. O. 397 of 1863; Do. 1 of 1864; G. C. M. O. 210, 56, 577, 582, 625, of 1865; Do. 95, 153, 154, 186, of 1866; G. O. 90, Dept. of the Gulf, 1863; Do. 14, 27, Mil. Div. West Miss., 1865; also Gen. Jackson's case, Hough, (P.) 161.

6. See instances in G. O. 335 of 1863; G. C. M. O. 391 of 1865; G. O. Defences of Washington, 1863; Do. 70, Dept. of the Mo., 1865; Do. 19, Dept. of the Gulf, 1865; Do. 52, Dept. of the Pacific, 1865; Do. 30, Dept. of So. Ca., 1866; Do. 37, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1863; G. C. M. O. 39, 2, 93, Id., 1865; Do. 25, Dept. of Ky., 1865; Do. 31, Fourth Mil. Dist., 1867; Do. 23, Id., 1868; Do. 59, Id., 1869; Do. 153, 175, Fifth Id., 1869; Do. 53, Id., 1870. Imprisonment for life was still more frequently imposed by Military Commissions.

that period also a not unfrequent form.¹ Sentences of confinement 'during the remainder of the term of enlistment' of the soldier were then also more common than now.² At present—in time of peace—the term of imprisonment for *desertion* is from two to five years; two years being the more usual measure when the act was not aggravated: five years is also rarely exceeded for any *other* offences, except aggravated instances of violent crime taken cognizance of under Art. 62.³

As to the term of confinement in a *penitentiary*, this is not limited or affected by Art. 97 above set forth, and, where the sentence is discretionary—as under Art. 60 or Art. 62—may be imposed without regard to the provision of the civil statute fixing the term of punishment for the act as a civil crime. While such provision may well be taken into consideration in estimating the proper measure of punishment for the offence found, the court may, in its discretion, considerably exceed the limit of the statute.⁴

Imprisonment after discharge or expiration of term of enlistment. It is now settled by the long-continued usage of the service and practice of the War Department that a soldier (or an officer) may be sentenced to be discharged (or dismissed), and thereupon imprisoned for a certain term; in other words, may be required to submit to an imprisonment at the hands of the military authorities after, by the effect of the dishonorable discharge, (or dismissal,) he has been separated from the military service and has become a civilian. The legality of such imprisonment consists in the fact that, after the discharge, the party is held confined not as a military person but as a *civilian convict*—as an offender against the laws of the United States under the

1. See case of sentence of imprisonment "for during the war in Missouri," in G. O. 10, Dept. of the Mo., 1863.

2. In such sentences courts should indicate the date on which the enlistment of the accused expires, so that the reviewing officer may be once advised of the exact *term* of imprisonment adjudged and facilitated as to his action. See DIGEST, 284.

3. As in case of Sergt. Mason, (G. C. M. O. 26, Dept. of the East, 1882.)

4. DIGEST, 81; *Ex parte* Mason, 105 U. S. 696, where the term adjudged, of *eight years*, is recognized as legal.

ntence of a tribunal authorized by public statute to punish at scretion the offence committed.¹

Upon similar grounds it is equally settled that a court-martial y legally sentence a soldier to a term of imprisonment which ist necessarily extend beyond the period of his existing term of listment, and that the soldier may legally be held confined der the sentence beyond such term in full execution of the nishment.²

Execution of the punishment of imprisonment. Con-ement at a *military prison*, which was executed at a great iety of fortified posts during the late war,³ is now executed the Military Prison established, by statute,⁴ for the confine-nt and reformation of military prisoners, at Fort Leavenworth, nsas;⁵ except in cases of persons sentenced to such confine-nt by courts-martial within the Division of the Pacific, when e punishment is executed at the prison on Alcatraz Island in e harbor of San Francisco.

Upon a strict construction of Sec. 1344, Rev. Sts., it might ll be held that only such persons could legally be committed confinement at the Military Prison at Fort Leavenworth as d been specifically "sentenced to imprisonment therein." *In actice*, however, an express mention of this prison in the sen-ice has not been regarded as requisite, but—wherever the sen-ice is worded in general terms—the mere designation of such ison as the place of confinement, by the competent reviewing

1. DIGEST, 285; *Ex parte* Mason, *ante*. And see *post*, p. 601.

2. See O'Brien, 276; G. C. M. O. 61, Dept. of Dakota, 1884.

3. Among the principal were Forts Preble, Adams, Warren, Wood, huyler, Lafayette, Mifflin, Delaware, Whipple, Norfolk, Macon, Pu-ki, Marion, Jefferson, Pickens, Pike, the Rip Raps, Dry Tortugas, nson's Island, Camp Chase, Camp Hamilton, Ship Island, and the sts of Wheeling and Nashville.

4. By the Act of March 3, 1873, c. 249, incorporated in Ch. Six, Tit. V of the Revised Statutes, as amended by the Act of May 21, 1874, ing the original site of the prison.

5. As to the collecting of prisoners at established depots in the differ-military Departments, before sending them to the Military Prison, l the papers, orders, reports, &c., required to be forwarded with each oner—see Army Regs., pars. 937-940; also DIGEST, 284. As to ng the place of confinement of prisoners confined at this prison, par. 911, Army Regs.

officer, has been considered as sufficient to authorize a confinement therein in execution of the sentence.¹

Confinement *at hard labor* is executed—at places other than the Military Prison at Fort Leavenworth—by employing the prisoners in road-making, bridging, erecting or repairing of fortifications or quarters, gardening, wood cutting, policing, &c. At Leavenworth this punishment is executed by means of the “labor and trades” prescribed for the prisoners by Sec. 1351, Rev. Sta., and the manufacturing of supplies for the army authorized to be done by them by the Act of March 3, 1879, c. 182. But, as heretofore remarked, persons sentenced or committed to the Leavenworth prison, are subject to be put at the labor and employment indicated in the statute, whether “hard labor” be or not expressly imposed by the sentence.²

A sentence to hard labor is not legally executed by putting the prisoner at *light* work, or work less severe or continuous than that required of other prisoners held at the same prison and similarly sentenced.³

The provision of the Act of June 25, 1868, known as the “eight-hour law,” does not apply to prisoners employed at hard labor under sentence of court-martial.⁴

Confinement *in a penitentiary* is executed by the forwarding of the prisoner under guard to the penitentiary designated by the proper authority,⁵ and his delivery, with copies of the necessary orders, &c., to the warden or other official in charge. Upon his commitment, the military prisoner becomes subject to the same government and discipline and to the performance of the same labor as are the civilian prisoners.⁶

The *point of time* at and from which a sentence of Imprisonment *begins to be executed*, in the absence of any statutory provision on the subject, is now fixed, in practice, by an order of the Secretary of War, issued originally in 1870, which directs that the confinement “shall be considered as beginning from the date

1. See Army Regs., par. 936; also G. C. M. O., of Hdqrs. of Army, *passim*. The papers required to be sent with prisoners to this prison are specified in par. 939. Army Regs., as amended by G. O. 57 of 1884.

2. DIGEST, 287.

3. DIGEST, 287.

4. See G. O. 71, Dept. of the South, 1869.

5. As indicated in Army Regs., par. 910.

6. DIGEST, 81.

the promulgation of the sentence in Orders."¹ Thus beginning, the execution continues to the end of the term of years, months, &c.,² adjudged by the court, or till the happening of the event—as the payment of a *fine*—upon which its duration may be expressly made by the sentence to depend, or till a pardon, or remission of the unexpired portion of the punishment, granted by the competent authority; subject also to the possible judgment of the period by a *credit* gained by good conduct, after presently to be noticed.

As heretofore remarked, the fact that the soldier, being sentenced with the confinement to dishonorable discharge, has been discharged accordingly, or that the term for which he enlisted expired pending the confinement, affects in no manner the due course of the execution of the punishment. The military jurisdiction having once duly attached in his case while he was a soldier, and he having been as such duly tried and convicted, and sentence of confinement having been duly approved, it is immaterial to its execution whether he actually remain or not in military service, his status being now simply that of a public prisoner held by the authority of the United States as an offender against its laws.

Commencing as indicated, the *term of the execution* continues until without regard to any intermediate periods during which the prisoner, though in military custody, may not be undergoing specific confinement adjudged,³—as a period during which he remained at a depot or elsewhere before being forwarded to the place of confinement, or during which he is being transferred to

G. O. 21 of 1870, incorporated in par. 901, Army Regs., and amended by G. O. 103 of 1884. It is added in the amended Order—“Unless the time of its commencement is otherwise expressly fixed by sentence of the court or in the order promulgating the proceedings.” Various forms of fixing the time are rare in practice.

It may be noted that the Order applies only to persons sentenced who are “in custody at the time” of the promulgation of the sentence, thus excluding such persons as may have *escaped* or been *taken prisoner by the enemy* before that date. As to such, the execution of the punishment would properly commence from the date of their subsequent commitment, (if captured or returned,) to the prison or penitentiary appointed for their confinement.

“In calculating the period of imprisonment, the day on which the sentence commences, and that on which the prisoner is to be released, both to be counted.” Simmons § 779.

See Simmons § 782.

such place, or from such place to another when the place of confinement is changed by competent authority,¹ or during which he may be held in hospital or his quarters under medical treatment.² Otherwise, however, as to a period of *unauthorized* absence from military custody, occasioned by an *escape*; the period, on recapture, being legally remanded to serve out the period of sentence which remained to be served at the date of the escape.

That the period of an arrest in confinement before the execution of the sentence, however unreasonable, cannot legally be *credited* upon the term of imprisonment imposed by the sentence, in executing the same, and that the reviewing authority, if he thinks it just and proper that the period should be deducted from the term adjudged by the court, can do so only by a proportionate mitigation of the sentence, or approving the same, or subsequently by a partial remission of the term, is also well established.⁴

Time credits. The term of imprisonment may, however, legally be abridged in its execution, where the prisoner, by *conduct* pending his confinement, becomes entitled to such abridgment under the law. By the Act of Congress of March 3, 1855, 'all prisoners convicted of any offence against the laws of the United States, and confined in execution of sentence in any prison or penitentiary of any State or Territory, (which has no system of commutation for its own prisoners,) shall have a deduction from their several terms of sentence, of five days in each and every calendar month during which no charge of misconduct shall have been sustained against them, and shall be discharged at the expiration of their several terms of sentence less the time so deducted.' In view of this Act, (as also of the provision of Sec. 1352, Rev.

1. "The authority which has designated the place of confinement, or the higher authority, can change the place of confinement." G. O. 1868. And see De Hart, 249; Army Regs., par. 911. The transfer may legally be made where called for by the exigencies of the service, and where the punishment as adjudged is not *added to* by the change. DIGEST, 287. An *unauthorized* transfer of a prisoner is in the nature of a *trespass* upon him, (Clode, M. L., 171,) and entitles him to be discharged upon *habeas corpus*, as from an illegal imprisonment. Allen, 7 Jurist, 234.

2. Simmons § 783; Griffiths, 152, 176; Harcourt, 168; De Hart

3. Simmons § 784; Griffiths, 172; DIGEST, 297-8.

4. DIGEST, 286; G. O. 105 of 1874.

orizing in general terms a similar indulgence for the convicts at the Military Prison at Leavenworth,) a General Order; 64,) was, on June 21, 1875, issued from the War Department, which the rule prescribed in the Act was applied to *military prisoners*, as follows:—"To equalize the practice in regard to punishment of military prisoners, so far as practicable, an abatement of five days for each month of consecutive good conduct to be allowed upon each sentence to confinement for over six months." And it is directed that the commanders of the Departments in which the places of confinement are situated shall issue special orders for the release of the prisoners who shall become entitled to the allowance. Since the policy of the Government in regard to its convicts has thus been extended to military cases, a large majority of the prisoners confined, both at Fort Leavenworth and Alcatraz Island have always been induced so to conduct themselves as to earn and receive considerable abatements of their terms of imprisonment.

Execution of cumulative sentences of imprisonment. has already been indicated in this Chapter, a sentence of imprisonment duly adjudged a military person who is at the time undergoing a sentence of the same character, or who has received in a sentence which however has not yet been approved or commenced to be enforced, is *cumulative* upon the earlier sentence and is to be executed accordingly; *i. e.* its execution is to follow immediately upon the completion of the execution of the former sentence, and to proceed in due course till itself completed.

Forfeiture of Pay, &c.—Authority for this punishment. is, though in terms authorized as a punishment by the Articles of War in one instance only—*viz.* by Art. 101 in connection with suspension from command—is in fact authorized, by the *usage of the service*, wherever the sentence is discretionary with the commanding officer, and, in cases of soldiers, is the most frequent of all the military punishments.

Distinguished from fine, &c. Forfeiture is to be distinguished from *fine*, a punishment which imposes a pecuniary

As to the nature of this forfeiture, see "Suspension," *ante*.

liability in general, not necessarily affecting pay;¹ and also *stoppage*, which is not properly a punishment at all but a detention on account, sometimes indeed resulting from punishment in the mode adopted for executing the same.²

Different forms of forfeiture. Forfeiture by sentence may be expressed in different forms according to the particular portion or amount of pay intended to be affected. Thus the forfeiture may be general and entire, *viz.* of "*all pay due*," or—a portion—which is usual where the officer or soldier is detached from service by a dismissal or dishonorable discharge adjudged by the same sentence, and the object is to cover all possible claims of pay up to the date of the actual execution of the sentence "*all pay due or to become due*." Where it is not intended by the court to deprive the accused of his entire pay, the sentence may impose a forfeiture of his pay for a month or months, or for a portion—as one half, or so many dollars—of such pay,³ or simply of so many dollars in general terms, or of the pay or a portion of the pay "for the same period" as that of the term of imprisonment (or suspension) adjudged in the same sentence. A sentence, in forfeiting certain pay, may *except* from the forfeiture an amount stated, to be rendered to the soldier for his usual benefit.⁴

The forfeiture of "allowances." The forfeiture may include "allowances" with pay, though a forfeiture of "pay" alone will not embrace allowances.⁵ A forfeiture of "pay and allowances" affects, with his pay, any money-commutation or other pecuniary emoluments incidental to the office, rank, or duty of the party and due him at the date on which the sentence takes effect—as the allowance for quarters in the case of an officer.

1. See under "Fine," *ante*.

2. DIGEST, 267, 465.

3. As to the form of forfeiture of a portion of the monthly pay of a soldier, see DIGEST, 272; Army Regs., par. 906.

4. See par. 927, Army Regs.; also the G. O., Dept. of the South, referred to in Chapter XXI—"Mitigation." In sentences of forfeiture imposed in connection with confinement by *naval* courts-martial, the court often *excepts* from the forfeiture a certain designated sum, to be paid to the accused for "necessary prison expenses during the term of his confinement," or in terms to a like effect. See recent instances in G. C. 11, 3, 4, 6 to 10, 14 to 17, 22 to 27, &c., Navy Dept., 1885.

5. McNaghten, 27; DIGEST, 271, 470.

allowance for clothing in the case of a soldier.¹ A forfeiture of allowances other than pecuniary—as of rations or cloth—such, would not now be sanctioned by the usage of the

forfeiture to be to the United States only. We have more noticed the principle that a court-martial can neither pay for the benefit of an individual, nor by its sentence is to its disposition.³ All forfeitures of pay accrue to the States, and the disposition of the same as public funds is as belonging to the province of Congress.⁴

must be express, and clearly defined. A further principle governing this subject is that pay can be forfeited only in terms—that a forfeiture cannot be involved in any other. A simple sentence of death,⁵ dismissal, dishonorable discharge or imprisonment, cannot affect the right of the party to pay as may be due him at the date of the approval or execution of such sentence. Where, therefore, the court intends to pay, it must express its intention in terms: pay cannot be forfeited by implication.⁶

the terms of the sentence declaring the forfeiture should be clear and precise that the specific pay and amount of pay to be divested may fully appear; and that the nature and extent of the forfeiture should be evident from the sentence without any reference to other source of information being

to the effect of the term "allowances" in a sentence, (which it did include bounty-money,) see *Lander v. U. S.*, 92 U. S. 77. "allowances" means allowances due the party *as a soldier* at the time of the taking effect of the sentence, see DIGEST, 371.

Forfeiture, by sentence, of *pension*, as an "allowance" or otherwise, is unknown to our military law.

Sentences forfeiting all clothing, &c., "except fatigue clothing;" and sentences expressly excepting from a forfeiture of pay and allowances necessary clothing and subsistence," or in terms to such effect, are of the early G. O., but have been long disused in practice.

DIGEST, 271-2, 275.

As to the appropriation of forfeitures, ("stoppages or fines,") applicable to the support of the Soldiers' Home, see Sec. 25. Sts.; DIGEST, 272, note.

See *Major Herod's Case*, XIII Opins. At. Gen., 103; DIGEST, 271, note.

DIGEST, 270, 469.

required—are points which have already been illustrated under previous general head.¹

Forfeiture as a punishment in general. While forfeiture is the most effective of the minor punishments when judiciously imposed, it may yet be so employed as to be subject to serious objection. Thus, depriving an officer or soldier of *entire* pay, while retaining him in the army, (*i. e.* not dismissing or discharging him in the sentence,)—leaving him nothing for the support of his family, or for the purchase of articles necessary to health, cleanliness, &c.,—has been commented upon in general contrary to public policy and detrimental to the interests of the service.²

Execution of this punishment. Where the operation of the forfeiture is specifically limited by the sentence itself to a particular period, as where it is imposed for the same period as the term of imprisonment or suspension adjudged in the same sentence, there is no difficulty in defining the execution of the forfeiture, the same being concurrent with the term of the principal punishment as determined by the general rules heretofore considered.

Where the operation of the penalty is not thus fixed by the sentence, the date or mode of its execution will depend upon the nature and extent of the forfeiture. Where the sentence in general terms forfeits all pay *due*, the forfeiture, as a general rule, attaches *upon the approval of the sentence* by the proper authority, and to such pay as may then be due and payable to the accused. The approval, *ex vi*, by operation of law, divests his right to such pay and the same thereupon accrues to the United States. Where, however, pay due is forfeited in connection with dismissal or dishonorable discharge imposed by the same sentence, the forfeiture is in general to be considered as intended to take effect

1. See *ante*—"Principles governing the framing of the Sentence," *DIGEST*, 271; G. C. M. O. 65, Dept. of Dakota, 1880. As to the date of the forfeiture when imposed in connection with *reduction*, see *DIGEST*, 470. As to the effect of a forfeiture, inexactly expressed, of "ten dollars of his pay for six months," see ruling in Circ. 5, Hdqrs. of Army, 1883—in which however the author does not concur.

2. See G. C. M. O. 2, 5, Dept. of Texas, 1876; G. O. 41, Dept. of Mo., 1882; Clode, (2 M. F.,) 108.

3. *DIGEST*, 274.

ously with the execution of the dismissal by which the service of the party, and with it—regularly—his right to be terminated.¹

the sentence forfeits pay both due and 'to become due,' the forfeiture attaches both to pay due at the date of approval accruing monthly thereafter so long as the party remains in the service.²

the forfeiture is not of the entire pay of the party but of only—as the pay of one month or several months, or a specified number of dollars of the pay of such a period, or a certain number of dollars of his pay in general—such amount may *legally* be, and, it would seem, should be, satisfied by the amount—whenever accrued—which may be due and owing to the soldier at the regular bi-monthly or other payment made at the approval of the sentence, or out of such amount so far as it will go, where it is less than the amount of the forfeiture, the remainder to be satisfied at the succeeding payment made.³ In practice, however, it seems to have been precluded from the application of the forfeiture pay due at the date of the approval, and to apply it only to the amount due subsequently to that date.⁴

pending the execution of a forfeiture of a certain amount of a certain number of months' pay, the term of enlistment of the soldier comes to an end, he cannot be retained in the service for the purpose of satisfying the forfeiture and until it is satisfied,⁵ he is entitled to be discharged equally as if no forfeiture had been incurred in his case. Nor, if he thereupon or subsequently is discharged, can the unsettled forfeiture be revived as a charge against his pay. For, a pecuniary liability incurred under a contract of enlistment can legally constitute an offset only against the pay payable for services under that contract, and can no more be set off against the pecuniary consideration of a new and distinct contract than it can against the pay of another soldier.⁶

this point well illustrated in DIGEST, 274 § 13.

In the case, however, of a *deserter*, such a sentence would affect the soldier subsequently to his apprehension or surrender, that is, before being already divested by operation of law, under par. 1 of the Army Regs., (as amended by G. O. 68 of 1883.)

DIGEST, 272-3.

Army Regs., par. 907.

ST, 273 § 10.

ST, 273 § 11.

A forfeiture adjudged after, or pending the execution of, a separate forfeiture, and expressed in general terms, or not specifically restricted to a distinct period, becomes *cumulative* upon the earlier one, and is to be executed as an additional liability.¹

Official noting of forfeiture and action of paymaster

In all cases where soldiers remaining in the service are subject to sentences of forfeiture, the amount and particulars of the forfeiture, with the date, number and source of the General Order approving and promulgating the sentence, should be noted by the company or other proper commander opposite the name of the soldier upon the Muster-and-Pay Roll made out for the command next after the publication of the sentence at the post or station. The forfeiture will then be enforced by the paymaster who pays the command and who will either deduct the amount of the forfeiture from the amount of pay accruing to the soldier or will omit to pay him altogether, according to the extent of the forfeiture and the nature of the sentence. The forfeiture, if not cancelled at the first payment, must be continued to be noted on successive rolls till fully discharged.²

Effect of a remission upon execution of pending forfeiture. A remission in whole or in part of a pending forfeiture should properly, in the opinion of the author, take effect upon any pay accrued at its date and not *actually* forfeited. Thus if a soldier is sentenced in January to forfeit two months' pay and in February the forfeiture is remitted, he would be entitled at the bi-monthly payment at the end of February, when his pay account for the two months is regularly settled, to receive his full pay for the two months, the forfeiture being entirely removed by the remission. The practice, however, is apparently not in accordance with this view, but governed by par. 926 of the Army Regulations, which declares that—"An order remitting forfeiture of pay operates only as to time subsequent to its date;" that is to say—*affects only pay accruing subsequently to its date.*³

1 See Army Regs., par. 908.

2 See Army Regs., par. 928, (amended by G. O. 89 of 1883.)

3 A regulation which seems to proceed upon a miscomprehension of the nature and plenary effect of pardon. See, however—to the same effect—Circ. 4 of 1883.

PUNISHMENTS LEGAL AND APPROPRIATE FOR ENLISTED MEN ONLY.

These are Reduction, Dishonorable Discharge, Solitary Confinement, Confinement on bread and water diet, Ball and Chain.

Reduction.—Nature of and authority for the punishment.

This punishment, commonly termed reduction to the rank, consists, in our service, in the degrading of a non-commissioned officer—sergeant or corporal of a company—to the rank and status of a private.³ Reducing to an intermediate grade, from sergeant to corporal, is not known to our law.⁴ The punishment as adjudged is absolute, *i. e.* without limitation as to time.

It is specifically mentioned in a single Article of war, the Article where it is *required* to be imposed upon conviction of the soldier of conniving at the hiring of his duty by a soldier. By the authority, however, of the usage of the service, recognized in pars. 172 and 896 of the Army Regulations, it may be imposed by any court-martial wherever the sentence is discretionary.

Reduction by sentence as a *punishment* is to be distinguished from the reduction authorized by the Army Regulations, (par. 172, *viz.* that which may be ordered by the commander of a company) on the application of a company commander.

Properly adjudged with confinement. As has already been remarked,⁶—when a term of imprisonment is adjudged a

man was formerly sometimes designated as reduction to the "rank" of a "private sentinel." See Tytler, 318; Macomb, 62; *Regulations* in the early General Orders.

It is declared in par. 913, Army Regs., that—"Ordnance sergeants, commissary sergeants and Hospital stewards, though liable to discharge, may not be reduced."

Chief Musician, though an enlisted man, is not a non-commissioned officer and so is not subject to this punishment. DIGEST, 156.

A non-commissioned officer of the Engineer Battalion may be reduced to a private of either the *first* or *second class*, established by Sec. 1, Art. 1, *Reg. Sts.* See a case of such reduction to a private of the "second class" in G. C. M. O. 70 of 1868.

Otherwise in the British code. Army Act § 44, 183.

G. O. 76 of 1824, is a case of a corporal sentenced "to perform the duties of private sentinel for one month." Such a sentence would be warranted by present usage.

See *ante*, "Imprisonment," p. 594, and authorities cited in note 2.

non-commissioned officer, the sentence should also embrace reduction. This for the reason assigned by the authorities to retain the sergeant or corporal under the circumstances rank must tend to degrade the same and detract from the due to it, and that therefore, when thus punished, he should be punished as a private soldier. In such a case also the sentence should properly be so worded as to require or allow the reduction to take effect before the imprisonment is entered upon.

Reduction with ignominy. In some few cases reduction has been made ignominious, *i. e.* has been directed in the sentence to be accompanied by the cutting off, in the presence of the command, of the chevrons and stripes of the non-commissioned officer.²

Execution of the punishment. This is a punishment which, like dismissal in the case of an officer, executes its effect, as it does, at once upon the approval of the sentence and notice to the accused. Upon the promulgation and announcement to him of the approval by the competent authority, he is forthwith to be a non-commissioned officer and becomes a private, no further act being requisite to make the punishment operative in law: his pay also is from the same date corresponding to that of a private. He cannot however legally be required to surrender his *warrant* as sergeant or corporal,³ unless it is expressly directed therein, or is accepted by him upon the express condition that it shall be surrendered upon reduction.

A non-commissioned officer duly reduced by sentence remains reduced, (and borne on the muster-rolls as a private,) till the expiration of his enlistment, or till the punishment, (which is a 'continuing one,) is remitted by the competent pardoning authority. Even a remission will not restore him to his former rank if the vacancy caused by his reduction has been filled. In such a case he cannot, after remission, be restored till a vacancy occurs, when he is reappointed by his regimental commander.

1. See Hughes, 95; Hough, (P.) 734.

2. See instances in G. O. 11 of 1849; G. C. M. O. 70 of 1868; 46, 67, Army of the Potomac, 1861.

3. DIGEST, 423.

Reduction of officers. By two statutes enacted and in force during the late war, reduction to the ranks was authorized as a punishment for *commissioned officers*. These were the Act of March 3, 1863, c. 75, s. 22, empowering courts-martial—"to sentence officers, who shall absent themselves from their commands without leave, to be reduced to the ranks to serve three years or during the war;" and the Act of the same date, c. 120, s. 6, requiring the imposition of this punishment upon officers convicted of failing to turn over to the proper official captured or abandoned property coming into their possession. No case is known of a conviction under the latter statute, and but few trials were had under the former.¹ No Act passed since the war has authorized such punishment. Reduction of officers *in grade*—from captain to lieutenant—is also unknown to our law.²

Dishonorable Discharge.—Nature of and authority for punishment. This punishment corresponds to dismissal in the case of an officer, in that it expels the offender with disgrace from the army and remands him to the status of a civilian: it entails however no legal disability either military or civil.³ It is to be distinguished from the discharge given by executive order, authorized by Art. 4, the latter being, not a *punishment*, but a mere rescinding or discontinuance of a contract.⁴

Dishonorable discharge, though not expressly required or authorized to be adjudged for any particular offence by the Articles of War, is indicated in general terms by Art. 4, as a penalty which courts-martial may award, and is recognized in the Army Regulations, (par. 896,) as a legal punishment for enlisted men: it may

¹ Instances of officers convicted under this statute and sentenced to reduction are published in G. O. 27 of 1864; Do. 80, Dept. of the Gulf, 1864; Do. 38, Dept. of the East, 1864; Do. 36, Middle Dept., 1864; Do. 10, 5th Army Corps, 1864; G. C. M. O. 25, 51, Army of the Potomac, 1864; Do. 12, Id., 1865.

² See G. C. M. O. 19 of 1885, where a reduction of an officer from major to lieutenant is disapproved by the President as being without legal authority.

³ Dishonorably discharged soldiers, who have also been confined under their sentences at Fort Leavenworth or Alcatraz Island, are not frequently re-enlisted where their record for conduct in confinement has been good.

DIGEST, 3.

thus be imposed wherever the sentence rests in the discretion of the court.

When properly resorted to. This punishment is usually and properly adjudged by courts-martial in connection with terms of imprisonment in a military prison or penitentiary;¹ it being in general regarded as for the interests of the service that a military convict, before being subjected to a protracted confinement, should be formally separated from the army.² The view has also been repeatedly declared in General Orders that dishonorable discharge *alone* is not an adequate or proper penalty for desertion or other grave military offence, since merely to require soldiers, upon conviction of such offences, to leave the army is in effect to offer a premium for their commission.³ On the other hand it has been viewed as an inappropriate, and too severe, punishment for a single act—especially where a first offence—of breach of discipline.⁴ The result is that dishonorable discharge, except in combination with confinement, has become a comparatively rare form of sentence in our service; and, where resorted to, it is usually also accompanied with forfeiture of pay.

Form of the punishment. The ordinary and proper form of this punishment in a sentence is—"to be dishonorably discharged;" the words "the service," or "from the service" or "military service," or "the service of the United States," being often added. The form—"to be discharged the service," without using the word "dishonorably," though unusual, is sufficient in law, and has the same effect as if such word were not omitted; the discharge adjudged by a sentence being a *punishment* and

1. DIGEST, 234.

2. See G. O. 36, 58, 73, Army of the Potomac, 1862; G. C. M. O. 50, Id., 1864; Do. 71, Dept. of Texas, 1873. The discharge not only relieves the army of a member found unworthy, but—the number of enlisted men being fixed by statute—enables the authorities to enlist a new man in his place.

3. Such a sentence is particularly objectionable where the soldier has yet a long time to serve under his enlistment. G. C. M. O. 23, Dept. of the Mo., 1870.

4. G. O. 9, Dept. of the South, 1873; Do. 61, Id., 1874; G. C. M. O. 4, Dept. of Texas, 1874; Do. 18, Div. of Pacific & Dept. of Cal., 1876. Otherwise where the offence is a grave one, exhibiting the soldier morally unfit to remain in the service—such as larceny. G. O. 48, Dept. of Dakota, 1879.

heretofore necessarily dishonorable.¹ A sentence—"to be *dismissed* the service," while a rare and irregular form, inappropriate in a case of a soldier, has, where employed,² the same effect as if the word *discharged* had been used.³ Where dishonorable discharge and imprisonment are imposed together, the sentence will preferably be so expressed as to indicate that the soldier is to be first discharged and *then* imprisoned.⁴

It may be added that the court, when proposing to award this punishment, should adjudge it in specific terms. No other punishment, (except death,) nor any conviction of an offence, however grave, can operate *per se* to discharge a soldier from the army.⁵

Discharge with ignominy. A mode of dishonorable discharge, sanctioned by usage for time of war,⁶ is *drumming*, (or *drumming out of the service*,) with the "Rogue's March," in the presence of the command. This ignominious form is sometimes enjoined with circumstances of *special* ignominy. Thus soldiers have been sentenced to be drummed out after having their clothing stripped of all military insignia, or after being tarred and feathered, or with their heads shaved or half-shaved, or with straw

1. DIGEST, 3, 231, 232. It is not within the power of a court-martial to award an *honorable* discharge. DIGEST, 232; G. O. 16, Div. of the Atlantic, 1874.

2. See instances in G. O., May 17, 1821; Do. 298 of 1863; G. C. M. O. 227, 616, of 1865; Do. 58, 66, of 1866.

3. G. O. 45, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1867.

4. DIGEST, 234, 235. A sentence adjudging a dishonorable discharge to take effect at such period *in a term of confinement* as shall be designated by the reviewing officer," was disapproved as exceptional and irregular, by the Secretary of War, (concurring with the Judge Advocate General—see DIGEST, 235,) in G. O. 90 of 1872, (now incorporated in G. O. 904, A. R.) And to a similar effect see G. O. 30, Dept. of Cal., 1872.

5. It has been held in a civil court that a conviction of *bigamy* could not so operate. *Regina v. Creamer*, 10 Lower Canada R., 404.

6. This punishment—as also shaving of the head—has been referred to in some Orders, (see G. O. 44, Dept. of the Mo., 1867; Do. 51, Id., 1880,) as not authorized because not contained in the list of "legal" punishments set forth in G. O. 4 of 1867, (now par. 896, A. R.) Instances of these punishments, however, occur as lately as in G. C. M. O. 23, 40, of 1867; Do. 6, 36, 55, of 1868; G. O. 52, Dept. of the South, 1870; Do. 30, Id., 1871. As to the non-application of par. 896 to time of war, see text *ante*, p. 563-4.

7. The sentence has sometimes been phrased, in general terms—"to be ignominiously discharged." As in G. C. M. O. 596, 616, of 1865.

halters around their necks, or bearing placards inscribed with the names of their offences.¹

Execution of the punishment. This punishment is executed by the delivery to the soldier² of a certificate or "discharge in writing," which, as required by the 4th Article of war, must be "*signed by a field officer of the regiment to which he belongs, or by the commanding officer when no field officer is present.*" The discharge will be worded in the usual form, as "furnished from the Adjutant General's Office,"³ but the blank in the body of the certificate, for the insertion of the cause or occasion of discharge, will be filled by a statement to the effect that the same has been given in consequence of the sentence of a general court-martial published in a certain General Order, describing it by the command or authority from which it has proceeded, its number and date.⁴ Such statement will show that the discharge was awarded as a *punishment* and is therefore *dishonorable* in law.

The clause generally added in discharges, that 'no objection to the re-enlistment of the soldier is known to exist,' is properly struck out; and the space at the bottom of the certificate headed "Character," (which, however, is no part of the discharge,) is cut off or not filled out.⁵

Where this punishment is imposed in connection with *imprisonment*, the terms of the sentence will in general indicate whether the discharge is intended by the court to take effect before the imprisonment is entered upon or after it is completed. To *postpone* until after a term of imprisonment a dishonorable discharge required by the sentence to be executed first in order, has been

1. Instances of these forms are to be found in G. O. of Aug. 6, 1813; Do. of Feb. 1, 1814; Do. 32 of 1822; Do. 34 of 1826; Do. 4 of 1828; Do. 29 of 1835; Do. 39 of 1838; Do. 80 of 1842; G. C. M. O. 124, 163, 276, 294, 432, 442, 513, of 1865; Do. 11, 224, 227, of 1866; Do. 23, 40, of 1867; Do. 6, 36, 55, of 1868; G. O. 49, Army of the Potomac, 1862; Do. 40, Dept. of the South, 1862; Do. 11, 20, Northern Dept., 1864; Do. 33, Dept. of the East, 1868.

2. If the soldier is at the time in confinement awaiting sentence, (or under a previous sentence,) a delivery of the discharge to the post commander, or other proper officer, *for him*, to be rendered to him on his release from confinement, is equivalent to a delivery to him personally.

3. Army Regs., par. 238.

4. See Army Regs., par. 240.

5. See Army Regs., par. 240.

Judge Advocate General to be beyond the authority of the commanding officer.¹ In practice, where the penalty of dishonorable discharge is mentioned in the sentence *before* that of the death, it is understood as intended to be executed first and accordingly.²

Dishonorable discharge by drumming out, &c., is generally given to the party in the presence of the command, under the immediate direction of the adjutant, provost marshal, or other proper officer, the proceedings and orders in the case being first read.³ In a case in the Army of the Potomac,⁴ the form of sentence was indicated as follows:—"To be drummed out of the regiment at dress parade, preceded by the drum band playing the Rogue's March and a file of soldiers with arms reversed, followed by a file of soldiers at 'charge bayonets.'"⁵

Confinement. The usage of the service, as recognized and expressed in par. 896 of the Army Regulations, is the same for this form of imprisonment. In par. 898 it is specified that the sentence "shall not exceed fourteen days at a time, with not more than two such periods of such confinement not less than such and not exceeding eighty-four days in any one year."⁶

§ 234. This opinion was approved by the Secretary of War in 1875, and is now incorporated in Army Regs., par. 905. The sentence provides for the dishonorable discharge of a soldier after the termination of an imprisonment, (now, a very rare case,) authorized by the same authority that it is not within the province of the commanding officer to order his immediate discharge. DIGEST, 235. This opinion was followed by Maj. Gen. Hancock in two cases, in G. O. No. 18, 1872.

§ 234.

Hart, 249.

§ of 1862.

Old case—in G. O. of Aug. 6, 1813—two privates, on continuous conduct, are sentenced in full as follows: "Each to be confined to close confinement, fasting, and in irons, for 24 hours; after which, severally, the hair on the left side of the head shaved off and the right side painted, and to be tied together by the neck, and to be paraded with guard, and drums and fife playing the Rogue's March, from the fort on the Severn, through the streets where the offences were committed, through Church street and on to the suburbs of the city of Washington, (where they shall be discharged.)"

to say, "no more than six such periods" of fourteen days each year." G. O. 75, Army of the Potomac, 1862.

A sentence of 84 days is, of course, the quantum by *one* sentence. § 183.

The term, therefore, of this confinement can in no case legally transcend the limit here fixed,¹ nor can it properly transcend any period the *proportion* indicated.² Such term has in some instances indeed been extended, but not lawfully since the adoption of the regulation.³

In the early sentences the solitary confinement was sometimes required to be "in the black hole."⁴ Later it has in a few cases been directed to be executed in a "light cell,"⁵ or in a "dark cell."⁶ In one of these cases⁷ solitary confinement in a dark prison was disapproved, as being a punishment likely to impair the health of the prisoner.

Confinement "on Bread and Water Diet." This form of confinement which is derived from an early period, being mentioned in Arts. 43, 81 and 129, of the Code of Gustavus Adolphus, is specified in par. 896 of the Army Regulations as among the legal punishments for soldiers. Though formerly frequently employed in our service, it is now comparatively rare. When resorted to in the later cases,⁸ it has generally been adjudged

1. In a case in G. O. 75, Army of the Potomac, 1862, a penalty, in sentence, of *one year's* solitary confinement was properly disapproved as unauthorized.

2. Thus, where a sentence imposed solitary confinement for two days out of every three in a term of two months—*i. e.* forty days out of sixty—the legal proportion was held to be exceeded. DIGEST, 454.

3. In a case in G. O. 72 of 1832, (before the date of the regulation, a term of this confinement for *six months* was legally adjudged. In a case in G. O. 234 of 1863, (since the date of the regulation,) a sentence (upon a conviction of a soldier of murder,) which embraced solitary confinement at hard labor for *eighteen years*, was (improperly) approved, but the unexecuted portion was remitted in the later G. C. M. O. 186 of 1866.

4. See G. O. of April 3, 1809; Do. of Aug. 12, 1836.

5. G. C. M. O. 50 of 1873.

6. G. C. M. O. 24 of 1873.

7. See the G. C. M. O. last cited. More recently, however, it has been employed at Fort Leavenworth as a punishment for convicts tried under Sec. 1361, Rev. Sts. See G. C. M. O. 3, Dept. of the Mo., 1874, imposing dark cell on bread and water.

8. G. C. M. O. 68 of 1867; Do. 24, 50, of 1873. In G. O. 287, Navy Dept., 1882, this punishment, and also "solitary confinement on diminished rations," are condemned, and it is declared that they "will hereafter be disused."

tion with solitary confinement, and the Regulations, (par. describe for it the same limits as to duration.

and Chain. This punishment, still recognized as legal army Regulations, (par. 896,) has been adjudged in sentence from an early period, generally in cases of soldiers convicted of desertion, or of aggravated offences characterized by violence, and in connection with the punishment of imprisonment. In some instances it has been imposed continuously for long periods—in one instance indeed for and during an entire term of five years' confinement.¹ In another class of cases this punishment has been awarded for a portion or portions only of the term of the sentence,—as for the "first twenty days of each month of a term of five years' confinement,"² or the "first week of each month of three months" of a term of one year,³ or for "each alternate month" of a confinement "during the continuance of the sentence."⁴

It has been remarked in a General Order⁵ that whenever ball and chain is imposed, the sentence "should state the weight of the ball, the length of the chain, and how to be attached." In the past the court has generally fixed the weight of the ball⁶ at from ten to forty, (most frequently perhaps twenty-four,) pounds, the length of the chain at from three to six feet, and has directed that the latter should be attached sometimes to the right ankle and sometimes to the left. In certain of the cases the sentence indicated is that of ball and chain combined; in others it is directed to be of a "convenient" length; in others it is specified simply that the party is to be confined "with ball and chain." In an early instance, a part of the sentence is—"a ball and chain attached to his *neck* for two weeks."⁷

¹ A part, however, of the sentence was remitted. G. C. M. O. 65.

² M. O. 595 of 1865.

³ M. O. 651 of 1865.

⁴ M. O. 306 of 1865.

⁵ D. 8, Dix's Division, Baltimore, 1862.

⁶ A ball filled with lead has sometimes been indicated instead of a

⁷ D. of Jan. 26, 1814.

This punishment, however, though very frequently imposed during the late war, is now comparatively rarely adjudged. The opinion was expressed by Judge Advocate General Holt that it was not a penalty to be resorted to except in aggravated cases, and, in his reviews of the proceedings of court-martials which directed it, he commonly advised that it be remitted except where the offender was shown to be a violent person, or where attempts to escape were to be expected and he could not otherwise be secured.¹

VI. PROHIBITED AND DISUSED PUNISHMENTS.

As a part of the history of Military Punishment, it is proper here to make reference to certain penalties, formerly adjudged by sentence of court-martial, but now either expressly prohibited by statute, or *disused* in practice at least in time of peace.

Obsolete Penalties. Some of the military punishments of the Romans and early Germans have been mentioned in Chapter I. In the early English Articles and contemporary Code of Gustavus Adolphus are prescribed sundry punishments long obsolete, such as—Decimation, (where regiments were concerned in misbehaviour before the enemy;²) Beheading;³ "To be drawn," (in connection with the death penalty;⁴) To be drowned or buried, bound to the person killed, (a punishment for homicide;⁵) To have the tongue perforated with a red hot iron, (for blasphemy;⁶) Loss of the right hand, or of a hand;⁷ Loss of an ear;⁸ Running the Gate-lope;⁹ To be "beaten through the quarters;"¹⁰ To be

1. DIGEST, 449.

2. Arts. 60, 67, 73, of Gustavus Adolphus; Art. 8 of James II. And see Art. 13, Sec. VI, of Charles I.

3. Arts. 2, 7, 10, 20, 21, of Richard II.

4. Arts. 2, 9, 17, of Richard II.

5. Ordinance of Richard I.

6. Art. 1, Sec. I, of Charles I; Art. 4 of James II.

7. Ordinance of Richard I; Arts. 22, 29, 32, 33, of Gustavus Adolphus.

8. Arts. 8, 11, 24, of Richard II.

9. See Art. 122 of Gustavus Adolphus.

10. Art. 80 of Gustavus Adolphus.

ed in the sea;¹ To perform the duty of scavenger;² To forfeit his horse,³ or his horse and armor.⁴

American Law. In our law, of the class of *prohibited* punishments are Flogging, and Branding or Marking; of *dis* punishments are Weight carrying, Wearing of irons, Shaving the head, Placarding, Standing on or carrying a barrel, and a variety of other forms of corporal punishment.

Flogging—The law on the subject. Our original code of laws, in enumerating—in Art. 51—the punishments authorized to be imposed by courts-martial, specified—"whipping, not exceeding thirty-nine lashes," and in the "Additional Articles" of 1776, certain offences were declared to be punishable with "less than fifteen" (or "twenty") "nor more than thirty-nine lashes." In the code of 1776, it was provided, by Art. 3 of XVIII, that "not more than 100 lashes should be inflicted on an offender at the discretion of a court-martial." To the same effect was Art. 24 of 1786; a proposition to extend the limit to 500 lashes having meanwhile—in 1781—been rejected by Congress.⁵ Public whipping was also authorized by certain statutes of this kind as a punishment for sundry *civil* offences—as, by the Act of April 30, 1790, c. 9, for larceny, embezzlement, &c., the limit being fixed at "thirty-nine stripes," and by the Act of March 2, 1793, c. 43, for robbing the mail, &c., the limit being forty lashes. Public whipping was finally abolished as a punishment for civil offences by the Act of Feb. 28, 1839, c. 36, s. 5.

In the military code of 1806, the 87th Article fixed the maximum of this punishment at fifty lashes; but, a few years after, by the Act of May 16, 1812, this provision was expressly repealed, and whipping or flogging for the time done away with. By the Act, however, of March 2, 1833, this form of discipline was re-

Ordinance of Richard I.

Art. 40 of James II. And see Arts. 60, 72, 79, of Gustavus Adolphus; Art. 13, Sec. VI, of Charles I. The doing of "police duty," however, though no longer adjudged by sentence of court-martial, is sometimes, though not always legally, imposed as a measure of discipline.

Arts. 4, 11, 24, of Richard II.

Arts. 5, 6, 8, 13, 14, 15, 23, 26, of Richard II. And see Arts. 1, 2, Same, as to penalty of forfeiture of goods and heritages; also Arts. 68, of Gustavus Adolphus, as to confiscation of goods.

Jour. Cong., 634.

vived for cases of *deserters*. At length, at the beginning of late war, by a statute of Aug. 5, 1861, it was enacted—"that *flogging, as a punishment in the Army, is hereby abolished.*"

The code of 1874—in Art. 98—merely states the existing in regard to flogging, in enacting that—"No person in the military service shall be punished by flogging, (or by branding, ~~ma~~ or tattooing on the body.)" An Article of the Naval Code—49—is expressed in almost identical terms. By Sec. 1354, Sts., it is forbidden to subject to whipping a prisoner at the Leavenworth Military Prison.¹

In the British law, flogging is no longer authorized to be judged as a punishment by courts-martial,² though it may be employed as a corrective, to the extent of twenty-five lashes, at military prisons.³ For some *civil* offences—mainly violent assault it may legally be inflicted to the extent of not more than lashes at one time.

As heretofore administered. The disrepute into which this punishment has fallen is in great part due to the fact formerly, in the British service, it was carried to a brutal perilous extreme. "Five hundred lashes" was a not uncommon sentence; one thousand were imposed in repeated recorded cases and fifteen hundred and even two thousand were sometimes reached.⁴ The execution of such sentences, while savage in cruelty to the subject, was demoralizing to those who inflicted and who witnessed it. The offender being secured in an unnatural position, the lashes were applied by an enlisted man, (a "right and-left-handed drummer" being preferred,) with the "cat," the thongs sometimes steeped in brine or salt and water,) upon the bare back and shoulders which soon became flayed and raw. The victim was not relieved till the surgeon pronounced that he endured as much as could safely be inflicted for the time. He was then removed to the hospital, to be brought out again, to

1. The whole Sec. is—"In no case shall any prisoner be subjected to whipping, branding, or the carrying of weights for the purpose of discipline, or for producing penitence."

2. Army Act § 44.

3. Army Act § 133, (2.)

4. See 2 McArthur, Table of Trials in Appendix; Hough, 80, 9, 100, 103, 105, 110, 147-8, 643-4; Id., (P.) 3, note; Col. Quentin's Table op. p. 218; Grant v. Gould, 2 H. Black. 72; Warden v. Bail Taunton, 67.

Wounds were partially healed, for a second instalment of the punishment, and this process was repeated till the whole number of lashes had been administered. The sufferer, however, sometimes perished under the blows, or in consequence of the injuries received, before the law had been fully vindicated.¹ In consequence no doubt of these extreme proceedings, and the fact that the employment of this punishment, subject as it was to abuse, became the occasion of suits in which heavy damages were recovered,² the authority to resort to the same was gradually restricted by the Mutiny Act till, in 1832, the maximum was fixed at 200 lashes.³ In 1868 it was abolished for time of peace, and in 1881 altogether, (except as above indicated.) As a penalty to be resorted to in moderation, it has not been without its advocates among English writers.⁴ In the *American* service, comparatively few sentences of flogging were adjudged⁵ until after the punishment had been revived for deserters in 1833, when the same was frequently resorted to,⁶ especially during the period of the Mexican war. By reason of the legislation of August, 1861, it was scarcely employed in our late war. An instance of a sentence, approved, of fifty lashes is found in a General Order of July, 1861:⁷ a similar one adjudged by court-martial in February, 1862, (the last case of the kind discovered by the author,) was disapproved by the reviewing authority on account of the previous abolition of the punishment.⁸

¹ See Napier, 150-1, 159-60, 163-4; Stocqueler, (*Hist. Brit. Army*,) 1-6; Gov. Wall's Case, 28 Howell S. T., 57, 157; De Hart, 244-247.

² *Grant v. Gould*, *Warden v. Bailey*, *Gov. Wall's Case*,—*ante*; *Myyn v. Sabine*, 1 Cowper, 169.

³ Clode, 1 M. F., 155.

⁴ McNaghten, 222-232; Harcourt, 28-9, 31; Napier, 188; Clode, 1 M. F., 155.

⁵ See instances in G. O. of May 9, May 31, Aug. 11, and Dec. 26, of 1811; Do. of Nov. 5, 1811. These are in the interval between the enactment of the code of 1806, and the original abolition of the punishment in 1812. In the case of Col. Wm. King, 4th Infy., (G. O. of Feb. 7, 1812,) one of the offences of which the accused was convicted was the disobeying and executing of sentences imposing flogging, in violation of the Act of 1812.

⁶ In G. O. 45 of 1841, Gen. Scott mitigates several sentences of fifty lashes with a "cowskin" to thirty, on the ground that the "instrument" used is deemed much severer than a "cat o' nine tails."

⁷ G. O. 32, Dept. of Washington.

⁸ G. O. 16, Dept. of Kansas. Similar action was taken about the

Branding or Marking—As now prohibited. This punishment, as heretofore remarked, is prohibited by Art. 98, which is but a reiteration of the provision of sec. 2 of the Act of June 1872, (the only previous legislation on the subject,) by which was declared that—“*hereafter it shall be illegal to brand, or tattoo on the body of any soldier by sentence of court-martial*.” This provision is inadvertently repeated in Art. 38. Marking in the *British* service was abolished in 1871.

As heretofore administered. The marking of deserters with the letter “D” dates from the Roman law,¹ and was authorized by the British Mutiny Act at an early date.² Later, the Act also authorized the marking of offenders discharged in ignominy, with the letters “B. C.” (Bad Character.)³

In our service this punishment has been carried considerably farther, additional forms of it having been sanctioned by our courts-martial. Soldiers have been sentenced to be branded, as well as marked with D, both for desertion and for drunkenness. The mark has commonly been placed on the hip,⁴ but sentences to be branded on the cheek⁵ and on the forehead⁶ have been adjudged. The markings imposed by our courts have been H D for habitual drunkard,⁷ M for mutineer,⁸ W for worthlessness,⁹ C for coward,¹⁰

same time, in G. O. 31, Dept. of the Mo., 1862, in a case tried by court-martial commission. And see case in G. C. M. O. 64 of 1865, noted “Disciplinary Punishments,” *post*.

1. Vegetius, *De Re Militari*, p. 1, c. 8.

2. The marking, as adjudged by the court-martial, was required by an army regulation, “invariably to be performed under the personal superintendence of a medical officer.”

3. Simmons § 119, note.

4. The branding, however, was of rare occurrence compared with marking.

5. “To be marked with the letter D on his right hip” is recognized as a legal penalty, as adjudged by sentence of a *naval* court-martial in IX Opins. At Gen., 80. In a case in an Order of April 4, 1864, a soldier is sentenced to be marked with D “on both thighs.”

6. G. O. 65, Dept. of the East, 1864. Here the sentence is *mitigated* by the reviewing authority to a branding on the hip.

7. G. O. of Feb. 1, 1814.

8. G. O. 35 of 1838; Do. 31, Army of Occupation, 1846.

9. G. O. 81 of 1833; G. C. M. O. 513 of 1865.

10. See Order last cited; also G. O. 66, Dept. of Washington, Do. 14, Dept. of the East, 1868.

I for insubordination,² R for robbery,³ and T for thief.⁴ times also entire words were required to be marked as deserter,"⁵ "Habitual Drunkard,"⁶ "Mutineer,"⁷ or "Swin-
⁸ The branding was done with a hot iron; the marking India ink or gunpowder, usually pricked into the skin or ad.

3 species of punishment, except in so far as necessary or ent in cases of *deserters*, was repeatedly during the late 1favorably commented upon by Judge Advocate General is being "against public policy" and "not conducive to st interests of the service." These views were repeated er authorities, until Congress took the matter into consid- 1, and at length, by the enactment already cited, prohibited unishment altogether.

used Punishments⁹—Carrying weights. Among the usual of the punishments by sentence, now practically dis- was the carrying of weights, which consisted mostly in ing for a certain time, in front of the guard-house, on the , on a ring, &c., carrying a loaded knapsack, (loaded with sand, &c.,) a log, a fence-post, or other weighty article; ight, (commonly 25 or 30 lbs.,) being generally prescribed sentence.¹⁰

iring of irons. This has been in some cases so imposed sentence as to amount to a distinct punishment. The fol-

. C. M. O. 107, 115, 126, of 1865.

. O. of Jany. 6, 1862.

. O. 45, Dept. of So. Ca., 1866.

. O. 2, Dept. of the East, 1868; Do. 6, First Mil. Dist., 1868.

. O. 25, 48, of 1827; Do. 29 of 1835.

. O. 25 of 1827.

ee Order last cited.

. O. 59 of 1826; Do. 34 of 1827.

one of the punishinents indicated under this head are mentioned ist of legal punishments for soldiers contained in par. 896, Army tions. Viewing this paragraph, however, as applying, strictly, of *peace* only, some of these "disused" penalties may perhaps y be revived in a time of *war*.

n a recent order—G. C. M. O. 10, Dept. of the Mo., 1885. the ommander, (Gen. Augur,) in disapproving so much of a sentence

Following forms may be cited from the General Orders:—"To be well ironed with handcuffs and leg-irons,"¹ (in connection with confinement); "To be confined 'in double irons,'"² "To be sent to this regiment in irons,"³ "To be sent in chains to the Detachment at Fortugas."⁴

Shaving of the head. This has already been noticed as imposed in some instances as a mark of ignominy in connection with Dishonorable Discharge. The sentence has sometimes directed that the head be "half-shaved;"⁵ also, that it be "closely shaved" and a "pitch canvas cap" worn upon it.⁶

Placarding. Standing or marching for a certain time bearing a placard or label inscribed with the name of the offence—"Deserter," "Coward," "Mutineer," "Marauder," "Pillager," "Thief," "Habitual Drunkard"—was at one time a not uncommon punishment. In some cases the inscriptions were more extended,—as "Deserter: Skulked through the war;"⁷ "A chicken thief;"⁸ "For selling liquor to recruits;"⁹ "I forged liquor orders;"¹⁰ "I presented a forged order for liquor and got caught at it;"¹¹ "I struck a non-commissioned officer;"¹² "I robbed the mail—I am sent to the penitentiary for 5 years;"¹³ "The man who took the bribe from deserters and assisted in their escape."¹⁴

As required *walking in a ring and carrying a log*, adds:—"Such punishment is a great waste of man power; something useful ought to be found for prisoners to do instead of such idle exercise."

1. G. O. 72 of 1832.

2. G. O. 103 of 1832. "Double irons" have been much more frequently employed in the Navy, in cases in which the confinement has to be executed on board a vessel.

3. G. C. M. O. 173, 195, of 1864.

4. G. O. 33, Northern Dept., 1864.

5. G. C. M. O. 23 of 1867; Do. 6, 36, of 1868.

6. G. O. of Feb. 1, 1814. Compare Ordinance of Richard I., Appendix.

7. G. C. M. O. 451 of 1865.

8. G. O. 23, Dept. of the Pacific, 1866.

9. G. C. M. O. 7, Army of the Potomac, 1865.

10. G. O. 15, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1865.

11. G. O. cited in note 7.

12. G. O. cited in note 7.

13. G. C. M. O. 58 of 1866.

14. G. O. 76, Dept. of the East, 1864.

ding on a barrel, &c. Soldiers have been not unfrequently sentenced, for minor offences, to stand on the head of a barrel for certain periods, sometimes also bearing a placard. Annihilation by the use of a barrel was—"to carry a barrel on his head through a hole in one end, and resting on his shoulders."

r punishments. Less usual were such punishments as riding:—Riding the wooden horse,³ (sometimes with a shield behind the person, or a musket tied to each foot;) wearing a wooden jacket; Wearing an iron collar or yoke;⁴ wearing party-colored clothes, or Marching with coat turned inside out; Bucking; Picketing; Tarring and feathering;⁵ ⁶ Stocks; Gaggling; Fasting; Tying up by the thumbs; giving 'grog,' or 'ration of whiskey.'

VII. REMARKS WITH SENTENCE.

As has been indicated in the last Chapter, a court-martial may, in connection with its Sentence, as with its Finding,⁸ present recommendations, admonitions, explanations, or other remarks, as it may deem properly to be called for. Thus it may express its opinion unfavorably upon the accuser or prosecutor;⁹ may rec-

O. 8, Dept. of the West, 1861; G. C. M. O. 58 of 1866.

these punishments, 'bucking' and 'tying up by the thumbs,' were specially condemned as "not warranted by law or usage." O. 80 of 1842; Do. 3 of 1853; Do. 44, Dept. of the Platte, 1871; Dept. of the South, 1873.

As punishment is prescribed in Arts. 43 and 49 of Gustavus's laws, and Arts. 30 and 34 of James II.

A comparatively recent instance of this punishment, to wit—"to wear an iron yoke weighing nine pounds, with three prongs six inches long," was found in G. O. 38, Army of the Potomac, 1861.

Imposed in connection with Dishonorable Discharge. See instances O. 34 of 1827; Do. 29 of 1835.

By the Ordinance of Richard I, (see Appendix,) it is prescribed that a felon convicted of theft "shall have his head cropped * * * and boiling oil shall be poured thereon, and then the feathers of a cushion shall be shaken out upon him."

Imposed as a punishment for *civil* crimes by Act of Feb. 28, 1839, § 1.

O. of April 19, 1814; Do. of June 7, 1817.

Chapter XIX.

O. 3 of 1853. See Chapter XIX—"Additions to the Finding."

O .

commend that an officer or soldier, (other than the accused) promised by the evidence, be brought to trial ;¹ may recommend certain action, discipline, or want of discipline, develop testimony, &c. It is not uncommon for a court, in adjudge an unusually mild sentence, to add that it is 'thus lenient' on account of certain circumstances mentioned—as that the accused had undergone a long confinement in arrest before trial, or had a good character or rendered valuable services prior to his capture, or has voluntarily surrendered himself from desertion, or was captured and imprisoned by the enemy, or is young or inexperienced as a soldier, or physically or mentally deficient, &c. The court may explain an exceptional sentence by a statement of its conclusions from the testimony, or an expression of its opinion of the amount of criminality involved in the case, or of the reasons for its action. But in general it will be more military and dignified on the part of the court to abstain from any remarks which may have the appearance of an excuse rendered for its action. Where some material fact has preceded, or the general course of proceeding, has been such as to be but justified by the peculiar character of the case, it will be more objectionable for the court to state the reason for the sentence in connection with the sentence. As was done by the court in the trial of Lt. Col. Fremont, where the great mass of evidence submitted was accounted for on the ground that, in view of the variety and complication of the circumstances surrounding the alleged offences, it was deemed proper to allow the full opportunity to the defence.⁴

Recommendation. Where a severe sentence, made imperative by a mandatory provision of the code, has been adjudged by the court, or—though more rarely—where a severe disciplinary sentence has been imposed, the members, or a portion of them, sometimes join in a *recommendation*, *i. e.* a written statement recommending the accused, for reasons stated, to the clemency of the reviewing authority.⁵

1. G. O. 45, Dept. of Washington, 1866.

2. See G. O. 20, Dept. of the South, 1866 ; Do. 115, Dept. of the Missouri, 1867 ; Do. 47, Dept. of the Lakes, 1868 ; Do. 8, Dept. of the West, 1874 ; G. C. M. O. 10 of 1883 ; Hough, 488.

3. See the explanations of the sentences of admonition and reprimand in G. O. 250 of 1863 ; G. C. M. O. 212 of 1866.

4. Printed Trial, p. 338.

5. Unfavorable recommendations—as that the accused be

This statement is not a proceeding of the court, and no part of a record of the trial. It is therefore not properly incorporated into or added to the sentence,¹ but, in practice, is usually appended to the record as a separate paper. It may indeed form the subject of a distinct official communication to the reviewing commander or pardoning power, and this is the form which it usually takes in the French and German procedure.²

Being the act, not of the court, but of the members who take part in it,³ the recommendation may be subscribed by all the members, or by a majority or minority, or by one member only. There may be two or more recommendations, signed by different members, and on different expressed grounds.⁴ The judge advocate may properly join in a recommendation.

A recommendation should not omit to state the reasons upon which it is based.⁵ Among the grounds generally advanced have been—the previous military services of the offender, his general good character, his youth or inexperience, the fact that he has been held for an unusual period in arrest or confinement awaiting trial, or that he is in infirm health, the absence in his case of a deliberate criminal intent, &c. A recommendation should proceed upon *facts*—mainly or entirely upon facts in evidence in the trial. It should not be actuated by the personal feelings

of the members. It is discharged, though recognized in the British, (see Hough, (P.), 762; Hughes, 99; Bombay R., 41,) can scarcely be said to be sanctioned in our practice.

1. See Army Regs., par. 916. So, in the civil practice, a recommendation to mercy by a jury is no part of the verdict, but only a communication addressed to the judge. *People v. Lee*, 17 Cal., 76.

2. In Marshal Bazaine's Case, in 1873, after the court had agreed upon the death sentence, seven of the ten members addressed a communication to the President of the Republic recommending a commutation of the punishment, which was commuted accordingly to twenty years' imprisonment in a fortress.

3. "Those members only who concur in the recommendation will sign it." Army Regs., par. 916. And see DIGEST, 411.

4. In a late case, in G. C. M. O. 92 of 1875, there were two separate recommendations, one being signed by a single member.

5. In a case in G. O. 70, Dept. of Dakota, 1870, it is remarked by the reviewing officer, Gen. Hancock, as follows:—"As the members of the court are silent with regard to the considerations by which they were influenced in making their recommendation in the prisoner's behalf, it is impossible for the reviewing authority to determine whether their reasons for making the recommendation were sufficient to justify a mitigation of the sentence. No consideration can, therefore, be paid to it." And see G. O. 27, Div. of the Atlantic, 1874; Hough, (P.) 793.

of the members, whether feelings of partiality toward the accused or of disfavor toward the prosecutor.¹ It should of course not disclose opinions on the question of guilt or innocence. Further, it should not assume to dictate, or to suggest, to the reviewing authority what mode or measure of clemency properly be resorted to in the case.³

It seems to be the sentiment of the authorities that recommendations are not much to be encouraged.⁴ They have indeed been characterized in some instances rather by a weakly lenient paralyzing spirit than a sound appreciation of the circumstances and merits of the case; in others they have been so materially inconsistent with the findings and sentence as to detract from their weight. In a proper case, however, a recommendation, especially if signed by all the members, will be duly valued, as being in effect a qualification of the sentence.

VIII. DISCIPLINARY PUNISHMENTS.

Not Authorized by Law. The different specific powers which have been considered in this Chapter practically exhaust the power to punish conferred by our military law. We find that law no such feature as a system of disciplinary punishments⁵—or punishments imposable at the will of military commanders without the intervention of courts-martial—such as are generally found in the European codes. Except in the cases mentioned in two or three unimportant and obsolete Articles

1. See James, 619.

2. See Benét, 145.

3. James, 527, 528; Simmons § 698; Kennedy, 211; De Hart, Coppée, 85.

4. The Secretary of War is "surprised to find that any officer of a court could recommend remission or commutation of the sentence in a case where the conduct of the officer tried was as reprehensible as that of the accused. G. C. M. O. 92 of 1867. "The practice of the members of a court-martial first finding an officer guilty, and then recommending him for clemency, is to be deprecated. It is an endeavor frequently made, to transfer the responsibility of their finding to the Department of War when it should rest upon the court itself." G. C. M. O. 10 of 1843. And see Do. 39 of 1845; Do. 26 of 1851; Do. 342 of 1861. G. C. M. O. 27 of 1871.

5. It is quite otherwise in the Navy. See Art. 24 of the code of regulations for the Government of the Navy, Rev. Sts., Sec. 1624. In the British Navy, where a similar authority exists, "courts-martial," according to Clode, (M. L., 44.) "are seldom resorted to." The power of summary punishment accorded to naval, but denied to army,

our law recognizes no military punishments other than such be adjudged as the result of a trial and conviction by a court.

Sanctioned by Usage. By the authorities nothing is clearly and fully declared than that *punishments* cannot be inflicted at the will of commanders—that they can be ordered only in execution of the sentences of military courts.² Punishments, whether ordered by way of discipline irre- spective of arrest and trial, or while the party is in arrest awaiting trial between trial and sentence, or after sentence and while in transportation to place of confinement, or while he is in confinement and in addition to the sentence,—have been repeatedly announced in General Orders and the Opinions of the Judge Advocate General,³ and forbidden in practice by Department

orders, is analogous to the authority to chastise or punish disorderly or disobedient seamen in the merchant service. See *Turner's Case*, 177; *Bangs v. Little*, Id., 520.

As to the summary power of disciplinary punishment now vested in commanding officers of the army in the British Law, see Manual, 35, my Act, ss. 46, 138; Queen's Regs., Sec. VI.

Arts. 25, 52 and 53. The nearest approach, however, to a disciplinary punishment in our law is the reducing of non-commissioned officers to the rank of private, under par. 172, Army Regulations. But this may be done for purposes quite other than punishment.

See Hart, 218; O'Brien, 487-8; DIGEST, 451, and Orders cited in following notes.

No officer has the authority in any case to inflict punishment for offences of any kind. This authority is possessed by courts only." See, for example, Sec. of War, in G. O. 4 of 1843. And see Do. 81 of 1822; Do. 18 of 1824; Do. 28 of 1829; Do. 25 of 1840; Do. 53, 80, of 1842; Do. 43; Do. 39 of 1845; Do. 31, Div. of the Atlantic, 1873, (where to subject a soldier to solitary confinement before trial is declared "clearly illegal;") Do. 23, Id., (where the inflicting of a punishment without trial—on a soldier *when drunk* is especially disapproved by Maj. Gen. McDowell;) G. C. M. O. 90, Dept. of the East, 1871, a soldier, for disorderly conduct in ranks under liquor, was ordered to carry a fence-post, and on refusal was gagged and subsequently punished with ball and chain and in irons till brought to trial—action so condemned by the same commander;) Do. 71, Dept. of Dakota, DIGEST, 66, 286, 428, 437, 451-2, 469. In G. C. M. O. 195, Dept. of Dakota, 1883, the requiring of a soldier, confined in the guard-house, to perform unusual police work, was held unauthorized. In 1873, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1864, the striking, &c., of *colored* soldiers without sufficient cause is especially reprobated; these troops are to be docile and obedient if properly treated and set a good example. Compare case of Lt. Col. Broughton, an officer of a "black corps" in the West Indies, James, 261. See also G. O. 148, Navy Dept., 1869; Do. 3, Id., 1872; Do. 217, Id., 1876—where the transcending of the

commanders.¹ Officers who have resorted, or authorized inferior to resort, to them have not unfrequently been brought to trial and sentenced, sometimes to be dismissed :² if acquitted or lightly sentenced, the proceedings have in general been disapproved or severely commented upon.³ On the other hand, enlisted men tried and sentenced for insubordinate conduct, where such conduct has been induced or aggravated by illegal corporal punishments inflicted upon them by superiors, have commonly had their sentences remitted or mitigated, or altogether disapproved.⁴

The practical result is that the only discipline in the nature of punishment that, under existing law, can in general safely or legally be administered to soldiers in the absence of trial and sentence is a *deprivation of privileges* in the discretion of the commander to grant or withhold, (such as leaves of absence or passes,) or an *exclusion from promotion* as non-commissioned officers, together with such discrimination against them as to selection for the more agreeable duties as may be just and proper.⁵ To vest in commanders a specific power of disciplinary punishment, express legislation would be requisite.

authority of summary punishment by naval commanders is severely commented upon by the Secretary of the Navy.

It may be noted here that, by the authority of *express statute*—Sec. 1353, Rev. Sts.—a *convict* at the Leavenworth Military Prison, offending against discipline, may be subjected to solitary confinement.

1. G. O. 23, Dept. of the Lakes, 1870; Do. 44, Dept. of the Platte, 1871; Do. 7, Dept. of the Gulf, 1872; also Orders cited in last note.

2. See G. O. of Feb. 7, 1820, (case of Col. Wm. King;) Do. of June 30, 1821, (case of Col. Talbot Chambers, sentenced to suspension for inflicting illegal punishment in "cropping" the ears of two soldiers;) Do. 23 of 1824; Do. 8, 20, of 1826; Do. 28 of 1829; Do. 25, 47, of 1830; Do. 64 of 1832; Do. 34 of 1842, (Capt. Howe's Case;) Do. 2, 4, 17, of 1843; Do. 39 of 1845; G. C. M. O. 645 of 1865; Do. 112, Dept. of the East, 1870; Do. 53, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1864; Do. 9, Div. of the Atlantic, 1869; Do. 14, Dept. of the South, 1869; G. C. M. O. 50, Dept. of the Mo., 1871; Do. 30, Id., 1883; Do. 37, Dept. of Texas, 1880; Do. 5, 6, Id., 1885; Do. 2, 6, Dept. of Arizona, 1883; Hough, 465; Id., (P.) 400. And see G. O. 168, Navy Dept., 1872; Do. 217, Id., 1876. Note also, in this connection, the case in G. C. M. O. 64 of 1865, of a Brig. Gen., convicted of causing two soldiers to be flogged with 30 lashes each, as a disciplinary punishment, and sentenced to suspension. The findings and sentence were however disapproved.

3. G. O. 4, 64, of 1843; Do. 2 of 1844; Do. 39 of 1845; Do. 22, Dept. of the Platte, 1867; G. C. M. O. 112, Dept. of the East, 1870. And see G. O. 9, Div. of the Atlantic, 1869; Do. 5, Id., 1870.

4. See G. O. 49, 76, Northern Dept., 1864; Do. 40, Dept. of the East, 1868; G. C. M. O. 90, Id., 1870; G. O. 63, Dept. of Dakota, 1868; Do. 76, 106, Id., 1871; Do. 93, Dept. of the South, 1873.

5. See G. O. 7, Dept. of the Gulf, 1872.

Summary Discipline in cases of Emergency. Cases indeed sometimes arise in the military service when a superior is called upon to employ toward an inferior a degree of force not in general permissible. As where he is required to defend himself against an assailant, to suppress a riot, to quell a dangerous offender or quiet a turbulent mob, to overcome resistance made to an arrest, to secure a soldier attempting to desert, or to capture a prisoner escaping custody:—in such instances the superior may in general employ the necessary personal force, use of arms, imprisonment, or other available form of constraint,¹ and in the cases of *war*, and when the command is before the enemy, will employ forcible and vigorous measures be justified.² This, however, is *repression* and *restraint*, not *punishment*; no greater force or severe restriction is therefore to be employed than may be reasonable and needful under the circumstances; and where the offender is provided with the usual or with adequate facilities for apprehending and confining an offender with a view to trial, even in time of war, to inflict personal chastisement on him or subject him to any arbitrary punitive treatment, or, less, by the use of arms, to put him in danger of his life.⁴ In violating these rules the superior subjects himself to charges of insubordination by court-martial,⁵ as well as to civil suit or prosecution.⁶

See G. O. 81 of 1822; Do. 53 of 1842; Do. 2, 4, of 1843; Do. 21 of Do. 3 of 1853; G. C. M. O. 47 of 1877; Do. 53, Dept. of Va. & N. C., 1864; Do. 40, Dept. of the East, 1868; G. C. M. O. 112, Id., Do. 90, Id., 1871; G. O. 23, Dept. of the Lakes, 1870; Do. 106, Dept. of Dakota, 1871; Do. 1, 93, Dept. of the South, 1873; Do. 31, Div. of the Atlantic, 1873; G. C. M. O. 37, Dept. of Texas, 1880; DIGEST, 452. G. C. M. O. 47 of 1877; G. O. 29, Dept. of N. E. Va., 1861; Do. 5, Dept. of N. Mexico, 1863; Do. 54, Dept. of So. Ca., 1865; Do. 25, Dept. of N. Ca., 1866; U. S. v. Carr, 1 Woods, 484; DIGEST, 314. DIGEST, 314; Clode, M. L. 117, 118.

G. O. 54, Dept. of So. Ca., 1865; Do. 40, Dept. of the East, 1868; G. C. M. O. 112, Id., 1870, (Remarks of Maj. Gen. McDowell); G. O. 23, Dept. of the Atlantic, 1870; G. C. M. O. 45, Dept. of Dakota, 1880. Do. 93 of 1867; Do. 36 of 1880; DIGEST, 452. And compare the maritime law—as Turner's Case, Ware, 77; U. S. v. Freeman, 119, 505; Perkins v. Hill, 1 Sprague, 119.

An excess wantonly committed would itself be punishable in the same manner. Maj. Gen. Scott, in G. O. 53 of 1842. And see cases in the previous notes under this head.

See under PART III.

CHAPTER XXI.

ACTION ON THE PROCEEDINGS—THE REVIEWING AUTHORITY.

The next Requisite. While the function of a court-martial is regularly, completed in its arriving at a sentence or an acquittal, and reporting its perfected proceedings, its judgment, so far as concerns the *execution* of the same, is incomplete and inconclusive, being in the nature of a *recommendation* only. The record of the court is but the report and opinion of a body of officers, addressed to the superior who ordered them to make it, and such opinion remains without effect or result till reviewed and concurred in, or otherwise acted upon, by him.¹ This superior, sometimes referred to as the Approving or Confirming Authority, but more commonly known in military parlance as the Reviewing Authority or Officer,² is, as will presently be more fully indicated, the official—military commander or Commander-in-chief—by whom the court was originally constituted and convened, or—where there has been a change in the command since the convening—his successor therein. In some cases indeed where, beside the approval of the original commander, further confirmatory action by a higher commander or the President is required by law, there are in fact, as will also be pointed out, two separate reviewing officers.³ It is the function of such officer (or officers) which we now proceed to consider.

The Law on the Subject.⁴ The provisions of our statute law which relate to the authority and action of the "Reviewing

1. See Fyler, 163, 169, 227; Kennedy, 212, 217; Simmons § 709; Maycomb, 33; DIGEST, 435; V Opins. At. Gen., 511. A sentence is "interlocutory and inchoate" till duly approved. Mills v. Martin, 17 Johns. 30.

2. The term "Reviewing Authority" occurs in Sec. 1228, Rev. Sts.

3. DIGEST 389, 435.

4. By the earlier statutes—Art. 67 of 1775; Arts. 8 of Sec. XIV and

the approving and confirming, &c., of sentences and in the executing, pardoning and mitigating of s, are contained in Articles 104 to 112 of the code, the execution of the sentences of courts for the trial Sec. 1326, Rev. Sts. These provisions, with a few lations and some usages of the service relating chiefly n of proceedings to the court for correction, the for- d publication of the final action taken thereon, and the position of records of trials, constitute the law on the his Chapter. Art. 110, which refers to the action on f Inferior Courts, will be more specifically noticed in XII. The matter of the execution of *particular pun-* s already been remarked upon in the preceding Chap- ot as thus treated, the present subject will here be nder the heads of—

proval or Disapproval of the proceedings.
 turn of the proceedings for correction.
 tion of the President as confirming authority.
 tion of commanding general as confirming authority.
 ecution of sentences.
 spension of execution of sentences.
 rdon and mitigation of punishments.
 rmulating of action and promulgation.
 sposition of records.

AL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

II—*Art. 104.* Upon this subject this Article provides
*"No sentence of a court-martial shall be carried into
 til the whole proceedings shall have been approved by
 dering the court, or by the officer commanding for the*

III, of 1776 ; Resolutions of April 14, May 27 and June 18, t. 2 of 1786; and Arts. 65 and 89 of 1806—the general in bsequently the general commanding in the State, and the of separate departments and armies, were authorized to act officers. Prior, however, to the adoption of the Constitu- ss itself, in which then resided the executive power of the not unfrequently exercised the power of finally acting upon gs of general courts-martial and of remitting and mitigating es. See cases in 3 Jour. Cong., 37, 144, 158, 386, 714; 4 Id.,

Significance of term "Approved." This word, as technically construed in practice, designates the fact of the official acceptance of and concurrence in the proceedings as a whole, including the sentence, by the reviewing authority. Art. 109 uses the word "confirmed" as describing the ratification of the sentence, and it would indeed be in general more strictly precise to speak of the proceedings (except the sentence) as approved, and of the sentence as confirmed.¹ In practice, however, no essential difference in meaning is recognized between the two terms,² but both are often indifferently employed in reference to the sentence. Inasmuch, however, as "confirmed" is the word used in Arts. 105-108 to describe the action of the President, (or other superior authority,) in cases where his action is required upon the sentence in addition to that of the original reviewing authority, this term has come to be more commonly reserved for the designation of such action, while "approved" is more usually employed to indicate the action of the original commander—the commander of the department for example—by whom the court was ordered (or his successor, if there has been a change in the command). The two terms will accordingly thus be distinguished in this Chapter, and generally throughout this treatise.

In exceptional cases, reviewing officers, in acting upon a sentence, have declared of the same that it was "confirmed but not approved," the intent being to impart the mere official assent necessary in law to the execution of the sentence while withholding personal approbation of the same or of the proceedings and findings upon which it is based. Such a distinction, however, in giving to the two words the one a technical and the other a colloquial meaning is a departure from established usage and without legal significance.³

Approval as an Essential. By Art. 104 the official approval of the convening commander, (or his successor,) is made an essential requisite to the taking effect of the sentence, both in case

1. In some cases the expression "approved *and* confirmed" has been adopted in passing upon proceedings and sentence together, but this has been more common in the British service, (see James' *Precedents*, than with us.

2. O'Brien, 277; De Hart, 111-112.

3. Simmons, (§ 730,) observes of the term "confirmed but not approved," that its "legal effect differs in no degree from an approval."

such approval is final and conclusive *per se*,¹ and where action is necessary to supplement it. In other words, it is fully essential where the sentence, in order to be executed, requires the subsequent confirmation of superior authority, (as in the specified in Arts. 105-108,) as where the same is fully executed by the act of the original commander alone.² It is, similarly, a prerequisite to the suspending of the sentence for the action of the President under Art. III,³ as also to the exercise of the power of pardon or mitigation of a punishment under Art. 112.⁴

What is to be Approved—“The whole proceedings.” The term, as employed in Art. 104,⁵ would, strictly, include every act done, or caused or permitted to be done, by the court in the course of the trial, and entered in the record, from the original sentencing of the members to the final judgment or revision. In meaning, however, that the “*whole*” proceedings shall be approved, &c., the Article does not accurately express what was intended.⁶ The purpose of the Article evidently was to require, in abridged and compact form, a provision of the previously existing 65th Art. of the code of 1806, which directed that the “*whole proceedings*” should be “laid before” the reviewing officer prior to his approval or action. It could not have been intended in the present Article to make the approval of the *entire* proceedings of the court an essential to the legal execution of the sentence, since the reviewing officer might well disapprove, in whole or in part, some interlocutory ruling not affecting the final conclusion, or some portion of the findings, or some one or more of several punishments awarded, while yet properly and fully approving the sentence or a punishment or punishments included therein. The term “*whole proceedings*” must therefore be construed as meaning *material* proceedings, *i. e.* such as

see *post*—“V. Execution of sentences.”

DIGEST, 89, 435; G. O. 27, Army of the Potomac, 1863.

DIGEST, 92, 435.

J. C. M. O. 101, Division of the Atlantic, 1874; Do. 66, Dept. of War, 1885.

The same term is employed in Art. 110. See Chapter XXII.

DIGEST, 89. The Annual Report of the Judge-Advocate General and Secretary of War, of Oct. 20, 1878, recommended an amendment to the Article, and a Bill for the purpose was introduced in the Senate and finally acted upon.

are material to the legal enforcement of the sentence as approved. And such has been the construction adopted since the code of 1874 went into operation.

By Whom to be Approved. The Article requires approval of the proceedings by "the officer ordering the court-martial" or "the officer commanding for the time being."

"The officer ordering the court." This is of course the officer who, by virtue of the authority vested in him by the Article, as already considered in Chapter VI, on the Constitution of the General Courts-Martial, has originally convened the court by the sentence has been adjudged. In the great majority of cases he is the officer by whom the sentence is approved or ordered to be acted upon.

Extent of his discretion. Whether and how far the proceedings and sentence, or any part of the same, shall be approved or disapproved, &c., is a subject wholly within the discretion of such officer to this he is invested by the Article with the sole authority. He cannot therefore be directed either by the President or other superior. While deferring to any known views of a superior on any question of law or discipline involved in the particular case, it is yet his duty as it is his right, in the exercise of the power of approval or disapproval, to act according to his own best judgment, and in the light of the facts and the law as understood and held by himself.

Delegation of his authority. This officer must act personally. He cannot delegate his function as reviewing authority to another officer—as a staff officer or an inferior commanding officer to act in his stead. If he assumes to do so, the acts of his delegate will be of no legal virtue.¹

Effect of his absence from command. While the personal presence of the commander within the territorial limits of his command may not be absolutely essential to give validity to his action as a reviewing officer, or the mere fact of his absence therefrom sufficient to invalidate such action,² yet when he is absent on a duty or under orders practically detaching him

1. DIGEST, 54, 90.

2. XVI Opins. At. Gen., 679.

ommand, or the effect of which is, in a military sense, prop-
incompatible with its exercise, his power to act upon the
nces of courts-martial convened by him may be materially
ted. Thus while a Department Commander, who has tem-
rily passed the boundary of his department when pursuing
ile Indians or engaged in some other service as such com-
der, is not so absent from his command as to be disqualified
taking the action required by Art. 104 or 109, it may be
e otherwise where he is absent under orders placing him
n a distinct and separate duty of some continuance, or by
ue of a leave of absence for any considerable term.¹ Under
such circumstances, indeed, it will in general be safest to de-
ve the command temporarily upon some other officer, and for
h officer to act as reviewing authority for the time being.

Effect of the absence of the accused. It cannot however
ct the authority of the convening officer to approve, &c., the
ceedings, that, since the trial, the accused may have been
sferred with his company to another department, &c., or is
erwise absent from the command, as by reason of having been
en prisoner by the enemy or having deserted. The authority
the commander having once attached to the case he still re-
ins the reviewing authority whose formal approval is necessary
the execution of the sentence, though the matter of its actual
forcement may have to be directed by a superior or other com-
ander.

"The officer commanding for the time being." This is
officer who, by reason of the absence, removal, disability, &c.,
the officer who originally ordered the court, or the merger or
continuanee meanwhile of his command, has succeeded to the
ercise of such command and is exercising the same at the time
en the proceedings and sentence are completed and require to
acted upon. Such officer will usually have been, temporarily
indefinitely, detailed for the command by the President, (or
r superior;) but, where no such formal detail has been made,
none is required by statute or regulation to be made, he may
n officer upon whom the command has devolved by reason

DIGEST, 89-90; G. C. M. O. 26 of 1878. And compare DIGEST,
2, C. M. O. 9, Dept. of the Columbia, 1880; also Chapter VI—"Sus-
on of the authority by absence, &c."

of his seniority in rank according to the usage of the service. Upon duly assuming the command "for the time being," the officer succeeds to all the rights of review and action which he has previously have been possessed by the convening authority had his exercise of the command not been interrupted.

It may be noted that the rank of such successor is not fixed by the Articles, and it cannot therefore be held to be essential that he should be of equal rank with the officer who convened the court, or of a rank sufficient to authorize him himself to convene such a court. Thus a department or an army commander, though not empowered to assemble a general court under Art. 72, must be a general or a colonel, but "the officer commanding for the time being," in the absence of any requirement as to his rank, may legally and effectually act upon and approve the proceedings, though,—as might be the case in time of war,—his rank be less than colonel.

Where, pending the proceedings in a case on trial, the command of the convening officer has been discontinued and included in a larger or other command, as where one department has been merged in another or in a Division, the commander of the latter will be the authority answering to the description of "the officer commanding for the time being," and will properly act upon the proceedings and sentence as indicated in Arts. 104 and 105. Where, under similar circumstances, the command of the convening officer has been discontinued altogether without being renewed in any form or included in another command, the General, if any, duly assigned by the President to the command of the army,³ will be "the officer commanding for the time being," or, if there be no authorized military commander of the entire army, the President himself as constitutional Commander-in-chief.⁴

"The officer commanding for the time being" is invested with the same authority and discretion, and held to the same obligation, in the exercise of the power of approval, &c., as would be "the officer ordering the court" in whose stead he acts.

1. DIGEST, 90.

2. DIGEST, 90.

3. See Chapter VI—"General officer commanding an army."

4. DIGEST, 90; *Martin v. Mott*, 12 Wheaton, 34.

Disapproval—Its nature and effect. “Disapproval,” in military law, is not a mere expression of disapprobation,¹ but a technical term employed to indicate the action of the reviewing officer where he does *not approve* the sentence or a punishment. Each officer, wherever authorized to approve, may, instead, disapprove; disapproval being simply the absence or withholding, stated in terms,² of the approval or confirmation which is necessary to the taking effect of the judgment of the court. As approval or confirmation vitalizes and makes operative the sentence of a punishment, disapproval nullifies and vacates it.³ Like approval, it may be full or partial, *i. e.* where a sentence imposes several punishments, one or more may be disapproved, and the other or others approved; the disapproval of a part not affecting the validity or execution of the remainder.⁴ Where the entire sentence is disapproved, the proceedings in the case are wholly terminated and nugatory; there remains therein no material upon which the original reviewing officer, or the President or other superior authority whose confirmation would be necessary to the enforcement of the sentence, can exercise the power of execution, or that of pardon or mitigation; and to transmit proceedings, for the confirmation of the sentence or other action by higher authority, when the sentence or judgment has been formally disapproved in the first instance, must be as futile as it is unauthorized.⁵ Upon such a disapproval also the accused is restored *ex vi* to his normal legal status as existing before his arrest, and is entitled to be at once released from any form of restraint to which he may have been subjected, and to be returned to the duties and rights of his rank or office; his legal rights and privileges remaining no more affected than if the trial had resulted in an acquittal.⁶

1. As to the action, commonly classed as “disapproval,” but which is more than unfavorable comment upon proceedings of secondary importance, see *post*—“Disapproval not affecting the sentence.”

2. That it must be *express*, see DIGEST, 436; XVI Opins. of At. Gen., 12.

3. G. O. 209, 341, of 1863; Do. 27, Army of the Potomac, 1863; Brien, 277; I Opins. At. Gen., 242; DIGEST, 435.

4. See G. O. 72, Dept. of the East, 1865.

5. DIGEST, 436.

6. “The effect of the disapproval is not merely to annul the sentence but also to prevent the accruing of any disability, forfeiture, &c., which would have been incidental upon an approval.” DIGEST, 436. And see *irc.* 12 of 1883. The disapproval is “tantamount to an acquittal by the

Where the disapproval of the sentence is but partial, its effect is to nullify the punishment or punishments disapproved, leaving the other or others which are approved to be executed, remitted or mitigated, precisely as if the sentence had included these only.

Grounds of disapproval. The grounds upon which the authority to disapprove a sentence or punishment may properly be exercised are mainly of two classes; some going to the legal validity or to the regularity of the proceedings, and others to the justice or expediency of allowing the judgment to stand or the sentence or punishment to be enforced. Thus where the court was not legally constituted or composed, or was without jurisdiction of the offence or offender, or proceeded with the trial when below the minimum of members; or where the record discloses irregularities which, though not amounting to fatal defects are of a gross character;¹ or where the accused has been denied material testimony, or otherwise prejudiced in his defence;² or where the findings or a part of them are unwarranted by the testimony, or the sentence itself is inadequate to the offence, or too severe or quite unmerited, or imposes a punishment not authorized by law,—in any such case the Reviewing Officer may, in his discretion, withhold his approval from, and formally *disapprove*, the sentence, in whole or in part, as the law or facts may require to render proper. His discretion indeed is here without restriction; its exercise does not depend upon the quality of his reasons, whether or not *any* reasons are stated by him, or whether his actual reasons are in point of fact good and sufficient or the reverse, the disapproval is equally effective in law.³ At the same time he will, of course, not properly disapprove without good reason—without better reason than the court had for the action which he fails to approve. Where, for example, the evidence in the case was conflicting, and it is apparent that the court, having the witnesses before it, must have been the best judge of their relative credibility and of the weight of the testimony, it will

court." XIII Opins. At. Gen., 460. That the fact of the disapproval does not divest the accused of the right to plead the acquittal or conviction in the event of a second arraignment for the same offence—see Chapter XVII—"Plea of Former Trial."

1. See DIGEST, 218; also *post*, under next head.
2. See recent instance in G. C. M. O. 43 of 1885.
3. DIGEST, 436.

It will be wiser for the Reviewing Officer to defer to, rather than reverse, its conclusion.' Nor will he properly disapprove a sentence on account of a mere error on the part of the court which does not affect the merits or impair the final judgment—for instance, an improper rejection of testimony offered by the prisoner which however would have added to the case no material evidence.

Nor will he ordinarily disapprove where he can have the error remedied by a *revision* by the court, as presently to be considered.

m of disapproval not affecting the sentence. The case above considered is a disapproval in whole or in part of the sentence. The Reviewing Officer, however, it is to be added, and in practice often does, exercise the authority of disapproval as to some portion or portions of the proceedings not material to support the sentence; such disapproval not being a final legal act like the other but an expression of disapproval or difference of opinion on the part of the commander. He may, in his review, disapprove a ruling of the court on an objection to evidence, or a ruling upon some interlocutory matter as a motion for a continuance, which, though erroneous does not impugn the final judgment; or he may disapprove a statement or omission in the record, which, not being at variance with a statutory requirement, does not constitute a fatal error. But this form of unfavorable comment is entirely consistent with a final approval of the sentence or of a punishment.

Warrant of new trial, upon disapproval. As noticed under Chapter XVI, it was held by Atty. Gen. Wirt, in the early case of *Captain Hall*,⁴ that a reviewing officer, in disapproving a sentence, is authorized further, in his discretion, (for the allow-

DIGEST, 438, and Capt. Weisner's case, referred to in note; also 153, Dept. of Dakota, 1881; Opinion of Atty. Gen. Brewster in C. O. 19 of 1885. Similarly, upon an application for new trial in criminal practice,—“if there be conflicting evidence on both sides, the question be one of doubt, it seems the verdict will generally be ordered to stand.” Wharton, C. P. & P. § 813; also *Wright v. State*, 110; *Whitten v. State*, 47 Id. 297.

C. O. 70, Dept. of So. Ca., 1865. In such a case the reviewing officer should in general simply express his disapprobation of the ruling indicated under the next head.

See DIGEST, 218.

Opins. At. Gen., 233. (1818.)

ance is not a matter of right,) to order a new trial of the accused provided he specifically applies therefor, thus waiving his privilege under the provision against second trials for the offence now contained in Art. 102. But, beside the new trial granted under these circumstances in the case of Hall, the similar instances in our service have been very few and rare.¹ Only upon, and as an incident to, a disapproval of a sentence can the new trial be allowed; after approval there can legal be no such proceeding.²

Action where the accused is insane or imbecile.

It should be noticed the action to be taken in cases in which the accused is found by the court, or deemed by the reviewing authority himself, to have been at the time of the offence or trial, or to be at the time of the review, mentally deranged or otherwise irresponsible. Where the accused was apparently sane, &c., at the commission of the offence, and the court, notwithstanding, have sentenced him, the reviewing officer properly *disapprove* the sentence; and in such a case, or in cases where the court has not proceeded to sentence, but the fact of insanity, &c., appears from the evidence, or the finding, or the recommendation of the members, he will in general properly charge the accused, (under the 4th Article of war,) or recommend his discharge by superior authority, and take measures for commitment, if the case warrants it, to the Government Asylum for the Insane. Where the insanity, &c., has developed since the commission of the offence, the reviewing officer will in general properly *approve and remit* the sentence, (if any,) with a similar action as to discharge, &c.; first, if desirable, assure himself as to the question of sanity by causing the accused to be examined by a medical officer or board.³

1. See instances in G. O. 18 of 1861; Do. 8, 9, 26, First Mil. Dist., 1869. "The privilege has naturally been but seldom exercised; pardoned convicted and sentenced being in general satisfied that the proceedings in their cases should be terminated by the disapproval, on whatever grounds the same may be based." DIGEST, 345.

2. DIGEST, 345.

3. See, as illustrating the text, cases in the following Orders:—G. O. 54, Dept. of the Pacific, 1864; Do. 13, Northern Dept., 1864; Do. 1, Dept. of the Susquehanna, 1864; Do. 81, Middle Dept., 1865; Do. 1, Dept. of Ark., 1866; Do. 22, Dept. of Cal., 1866; Do. 40, Dept. of Va., 1866; Do. 62, 73, First Mil. Dist., 1867; Do. 1, Div. of the Pacific, 1868; G. C. M. O. 39, Dept. of the Mo., 1868.

RETURN OF THE PROCEEDINGS FOR CORRECTION.

ature of the Authority. Incident to the discretion, vested in the code in the Reviewing Officer, (whether military commander or President,) to approve or otherwise act upon the proceedings and sentence, is the authority, fully recognized at military law,¹ to cause any error or errors appearing in the record, capable of correction, to be corrected by the court before final action taken by him on the case.² Where, in reviewing the record as transmitted to him, he believes that he has discovered a material omission or other defect, either in the findings or sentence or some interlocutory proceeding of the court, which may properly call for a *disapproval*, he may, instead of formally disapproving, return the record to the court for the purpose of having requisite amendment made, with a view, if it be duly made, to final *approval*. To this alternative indeed a reviewing officer is in general naturally and properly resort, provided the court has not yet been dissolved—as of course, (except in an emergency,) it should not be before a case tried by it has been finally acted upon. He may also be called upon to take this course by a superior commander or the President, who, upon the proceedings being transmitted to him for final action, has discovered some material error therein. It is evidently only by the return of the record to the court that the correction can legally be procured to be made, since the reviewing officer cannot make it himself independently of the court,³ nor can the court, after it has once duly completed and forwarded to him the record, recall it for modification.⁴

Kennedy, 214; McNaghten, 146; O'Brien, 277; De Hart, 203; WEST, 440; Army Regs., par. 923. It is equally recognized in the P. IV Opins. At. Gen., 19; VI Id., 204; *Ex parte* Reed, 100 U. S. 2. Compare the analogous authority of the criminal judge to call for a jury to correct a defective verdict. Wharton, C. P. & P. § 751; Bishop, C. P. § 1004; *Regina v. Meany*, 9 Cox, 233.

The action taken by the court is usually designated in practice by the term "Revision."

DIGEST, 437; Clode, M. L., 167.

The situation is of course to be distinguished from that of a court which has not yet transmitted its proceedings to the reviewing officer for his action, and which, until it does so, may reconsider and reform its findings and sentence at discretion.

Occasions and Grounds for its Exercise. These, (specially to those which may warrant a disapproval of the proceedings,) may consist of: 1. *Clerical omissions or mistakes* in material formal particulars in the making up of the record; as—an omission to prefix or append a copy of the order coming the court or of an order modifying the detail, &c., or to sign the numbers present at any session, or to state the fact of the administration of the oath or of the according of the right of challenge, or to include a portion of the charges or specification to enter the pleas made thereto or any special plea, or to state that the witnesses were sworn, or fully to record the evidence finding, or sentence, or to attach an exhibit; or a mis-statement of the name of the accused in the sentence or a specification making a material variance. And with these is to be classed an omission by the presiding officer or judge advocate to certify the sentence or authenticate the record: 2. *Errors of law or fact or of judgment or discretion*, on the part of the court, in its rulings or conclusions. Such are, mainly, errors in the substance of the findings or sentence—as that the findings, or some of them, are not warranted by the evidence, or are based upon the improper admission or rejection of evidence; or that the sentence is not warranted by or consistent with the findings, or is not legally authorized for the offence or offences found; or that the sentence is inadequate, or unduly severe, or inappropriate or inexpedient under the circumstances of the particular case.

Whether the defect be occasioned by inadvertence, or arise from a misconception of law or military usage, or from an imperfect logic or a misuse of the judicial faculty, it is of course most desirable that it be removed, if practicable, from the proceedings, and the due and rational course of justice be relieved from obstruction and embarrassment. This is particularly to be desired where there has been a *conviction*, since, in the absence of the correction, the sentence may not legally be capable of execution or for other reason may properly have to be disapproved. But in a case of *acquittal* also it is no more than just that an error

1. DIGEST, 244. A modification by the court of a finding may require a modification in the sentence. Griffiths, 90. The court, on revision, may so far change the finding as to substitute a conviction for an acquittal, adding thereupon a sentence. Griffiths, 92; G. O. 6, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1864; Do. 13, Dept. of Va., 1866. And see par. 6, Army Regs.

substance should be caused to be corrected, in order record may go on file so perfected that the accused will be sustained by it in the event of a subsequent plea of *au-
vit*.

which Cannot be Corrected. Radical fatal defects, and illegality in the constitution or composition of the court, want of jurisdiction of the offence or offender, are of course unremediable by this procedure. So, defects or errors cannot be corrected which from their nature can be remedied or only at the stage of the proceedings at which they occurred at some time pending the trial—as errors in the pleadings, specifications, or misrulings of the court upon special objections to testimony. Further, the object of the rule is to make the proceedings conform to the *fact*, the question does not extend to the correction of errors of procedure which are not capable of being corrected if the facts warrant, *when the facts do not warrant the correction*. Thus if the members or judge were not *in fact* sworn, the court, on being reassembled, cannot supply an omission of the usual statement in regard to the administering of the oath, by a statement to the effect that the members, &c., *were* duly sworn; nor could it cure the defect by the members causing itself, or the judge advocate, to be sworn *unc.* So, if only four members were present on a day when a quorum of five was required for the trial, the court could not, on reassembling, declare that a quorum was really then present, nor could it make void the proceedings of that day by repeating them and ending with an actual quorum.

Correction by Means of New Testimony not Allowable. The record cannot be returned on account of an error which can be corrected only by means of the introduction of testimony. The object of the proceeding is not to reopen an investigation which has been closed or rehear a case once tried and brought to a close, but simply to revise what has been judicially concluded, or to permit the introduction of additional testimony upon which the verdict would amount substantially to a new trial.¹ More testimony would have to be received subject to the objections and to cross-examination, and to the further introduction of other testimony to meet it, on the part of the de-

¹ 10 Op. At. Gen., 204-5.

fence; and the investigation would thus not only be not but indefinitely prolonged. And although the evidence presented were simply that of previous witnesses recalled to their former statements, there would still practically be no saving, and the proceedings would be liable to be protracted in the same manner as where the witnesses were new, only in a greater degree. *Interest reipublicae ut sit finis litium*, and most of the part of the republic embraced in the military state, where a final action is of the very essence of government and discipline. That no evidence whatever shall be presented at this stage is indeed a principle established by the great authority of authority,¹ and this principle, upon a recent reconsideration of the subject, has been emphatically reaffirmed in General

Course of Proceeding. The record is returned to the (generally through the judge advocate, from whom, according to par. 918, Army Regulations, it was received,) with an official communication requiring it to reassemble in the court to reconsider the proceedings, or the findings or sentence, in view of making a certain indicated correction, (or corrections) therein. Where the alleged error is merely clerical or formal is commonly sufficient merely to specify it. In an instance of supposed error of law or opinion in the verdict or award of punishment, a brief statement of the reasons deemed to call for amendment is usually added, or indicated as contained in the accompanying indorsement or report.³

Upon the receipt of the order, the judge advocate, (or the president,) notifies the several members, who proceed to reassemble at the original place of meeting, or at a new one if the order so it may, shall name such. The same rule prevails at such a time as at all the sessions of a general court-martial, that five members are both necessary and sufficient for the transaction of

1. McNaghten, 146; Simmons § 724, note 3; Clode, M. L., 16; Comb. 69; O'Brien, 280; De Hart, 204; G. C. M. O. 16, Dept. of the Platte, 1875. And see VI Opins. At. Gen., 201. The present law is to the same effect. Army Act § 54, (2;) Rules of Procedure § 51, (A.)

2. G. O. 47 of 1879, publishing an opinion of Judge Advocate General Dunn. And see DIGEST, 441; also G. C. M. O. 130, Dept. of the Platte, 1885.

3. See DIGEST, 440.

1 If meanwhile, by absence or any casualty of the service, members who sat on the trial have been reduced below five, order cannot take effect. But if five at least can assemble, immaterial that their number be considerably less than the usual number of the court in the case,² *provided*—for this is initial—such five all took part in the trial and judgment.³ If the court has been *increased* in the number of its members, it can—as increased, (*i. e.* composed in part of the new and additional members,) be convened to revise proceedings taken by it before increase.⁴

Usually the judge advocate and members are present, the proceeding being analogous to that which takes place upon a deliberation when the court is cleared.⁵ Of course, if evidence were taken, the accused would properly be present, (with his counsel present,) and the session would be open to the public; but, as already stated, the occasion is not one at which testimony can be introduced. If indeed the correction be one which cannot accurately or fairly be made without the concurrence of the accused, where it concerns the form of some peculiar special plea, motion, objection, &c., interposed by him, it will be regular and proper to admit him to the revision.⁶ Such cases, however, are rarely presented, since the reading, on each day of the trial, of the previous day's proceedings will in general enable the accused to have every particular relating to his defence fully and clearly set forth.

When the quorum having convened, the order, and accompanying papers if any, are read by the judge advocate, and the court, after deliberation and voting as may be necessary, proceeds, if concurring with the Reviewing Officer, to rectify the error by inserting the proper minute on the subject. If it determine that

DIGEST, 440; VII Opins. At. Gen., 338; G. C. M. O. 54, Dept. Texas, 1873. In the case of a regimental or garrison court, it would be necessary of course that all the three members should reassemble.

DIGEST, 441.

DIGEST, 440; G. O. 45, Dept. of the East, 1865. In a case in G. O., Northern Dept., 1865, the proceedings were disapproved because the officer of the original detail who did not sit on the trial took part in the revision.

G. O. 64 of 1827. (Ruling of President J. Q. Adams.)

See Clode, M. L., 167.

DIGEST, 441.

no error has been committed, it will return the record with an official communication, declining, for reasons stated,¹ to make the correction.² In such event the Reviewing Officer cannot of course order or compel the court to take the action proposed,³ but he may return to it the record for a *reconsideration* of its conclusion, at the same time responding to or commenting upon the reasons of the court as he may deem expedient. The court may then decide to adopt his view and make, finally, the correction, or it may again return the proceedings with an official statement to the effect that it adheres to its former determination, adding such argument or observations as it may see fit. There is in our military practice no limit to the number of times that the record may thus be returned,⁴ but it is not often that the same is in fact returned a second time after the court once decide not to make the amendment. Upon such conclusion the Reviewing Officer, (unless convinced that the court is in the right in the matter,) will commonly dispose of the case with an expression of disapproval of its action on the revision, as also, in general, of the sentence, finding, or other proceeding in respect to which the desired correction has been declined to be made. If, however, the error does not affect the validity of the sentence, he may, while disapproving the conclusion of the court, approve the sentence rather than that the offender go unpunished.⁵

1. The court is not obliged to give reasons for adhering to the proceedings as they stand, but it will in general be no more than properly deferential for it to do so.

2. Instances of the court declining to amend may be noted in the following Orders: G. O. 48, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1864; Do. 21, Dept. of the Ohio, 1866; Do. 48, Dept. of Dakota, 1868; Do. 5, Dept. of the Lakes, 1869; G. C. M. O. 159, Dept. of the Mo., 1871; Do. 55, Dept. of Cal., 1875. Proceedings had on revision, however, are rarely inserted in Orders of promulgation.

3. DIGEST, 440; Pison & Col., 63.

4. G. O. 2 of 1844; O'Brien, 279; DIGEST, 440. So a criminal judge may "send back" a jury "any number of times to reconsider their finding." Regina v. Meany, 9 Cox, 233. In the British military law the proceedings may be returned to the court for correction but once. Army Act § 54, (2.)

It may be noted that where the court has made or attempted to make the correction, the proceedings may again be returned for the correction of errors in the form or substance of the revision itself, or for the purpose of having it completed or elucidated. See the marked instance Gen. Swaim's Case, as fully set forth in G. C. M. O. 19 of 1885.

5. See case in G. C. M. O. 16, Dept. of the Platte, 1875; also G. C. M. O. 19 of 1885.

of recording the revision. The proceedings of the revision are to be recorded with the same form those had at any other session.¹ The record of the revision properly consist of a continuation of, or rather supplement the previous record in the form of an addition at the end of the original proceedings.² It will regularly comprise the proceedings in regular order and accompanying papers, or copies of the proceedings, attestation of the fact of the reassembling at the time and place, certified, with a designation of the quorum of members present, and a brief account of the action taken in considering the merits of the alleged error, making the correction, &c. In recording the details of a correction, proper reference will be made to the part of the original record in which the error appears. The record of the revision will be authenticated by the signature of the president and judge advocate: if an amended sentence is reversed, it will be similarly certified.

It is particularly to be noted that the action had and correction of the court, (except where consisting merely in the affixing of the omitted signature of the president or judge advocate,) must wholly appear—be stated and made—*only* in and by the supplementary record of the revision; that it cannot, by interlineation, or otherwise, be inserted in, or attached or added to the original proceedings. *These* must remain intact as recorded, no word or statement thereof, however erroneous or objectionable *per se*, can be erased, expunged, or modified; nor can a false and corrected page or extract be substituted for a defective one in the body of the record.³

ST, 419. And see G. C. M. O. 29, Dept. of the Mo., 1874. Griffiths, 90; Clode, M. L., 167; O'Brien, 280; G. O. 42, Dept. of the Mo., 1863; DIGEST, 419.

Sections § 726; Kennedy, 215; Griffiths, 90; Clode, M. L., 167; Griffiths, 59; O'Brien, 280; De Hart, 205; DIGEST, 419, 440; Capt. Griffiths, p. 47; G. O. 42, Dept. of the Tenn., 1863; Do. 26, Dept., 1865; Do. 54, Dept. of Dakota, 1867; Do. 42, Id., 1867; Do. 3, Dept. of the South, 1870. In a recent case in G. C. M. O. 42, Dept. of Cal., 1882, Gen. Schofield disapproves the action of the court in "the revision of the *plea*, which was incorrectly made by the omission of words in the body of the *original record*, instead of inserting them in the record of the revision with the proper reference to the original proceedings." (Citing DIGEST, 419, 441.) "The error, however, is not regarded as affecting the legality of the proceedings."

The correction must be the act of the court. The proposed amendment can only be made by the court as convened for the purpose, and must be the act of the court *as such*. That the error is a merely clerical one does not authorize its being amended by the judge advocate alone, and *any* correction assumed to be made either by that official, or by the president or other member apart from the court and without its authority, by means of erasure, interlineation, addition to the record or otherwise, must be wholly unauthorized and ineffectual in law.¹ Nor can either the president or the judge advocate, at this stage, properly add his signature, (previously omitted,) to the original proceedings without the concurrence of the court. In a word, each and every amendment, whether of form or substance, must be made by the court, or by its direction, and as a part of its formal proceedings had under the order reassembling it.

III. ACTION OF THE PRESIDENT AS CONFIRMING AUTHORITY.

Provisions of the Articles of War. The law on the subject of the *confirmation* of military sentences by the President which has been compared to "the judgment of a court of last resort,"² is contained in Arts. 105, 106 and 108, as follows:—

"ART. 105. *No sentence of a court-martial, inflicting the punishment of death, shall be carried into execution until it shall have been confirmed by the President; except in the cases of persons convicted, in time of war, as spies, mutineers, deserters, or murderers*

1. DIGEST, 441; G. O. 3, Dept. of the South, 1870.

Compare, in connection with the present Title, the following Orders in which are published proceedings had upon Revision, in a variety of cases:—G. O. 61, 75, 76, 90, Army of the Potomac, 1862; Do. 23, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1863; Do. 6, 48, 53, 60, Id., 1864; Do. 13, Dept. of Va., 1866; Do. 21, Dept. of the Ohio, 1866; Do. 48, Dept. of Dakota, 1868; Do. 5, Dept. of the Lakes, 1869; Do. 57, First Mil. Dist., 1869; Do. 22, Id., 1869; G. C. M. O. 159, Dept. of the Mo., 1871; Do. 5, Dept. of Cal., 1875. Such proceedings are now rarely specifically promulgated. In general, where a revision has been had and a correction made in the findings or sentence, or otherwise, only the proceedings *finally settled* are published.

2. "Like the judgment of a court of the last resort, final and conclusive." Wooley v. U. S., 20 Law Rep., 631. But the *approval by a military commander* of a sentence which does not require the action of the President, (or other superior authority,) is equally final and conclusive. See *ante*—"Approval."

the cases of guerilla-marauders, convicted, in time of war, robbery, burglary, arson, rape, assault with intent to commit any of violation of the laws and customs of war; and in such cases the sentence of death may be carried into execution upon confirmation by the commanding general in the field, or the order of the department, as the case may be.

ART. 106. *In time of peace no sentence of a court-martial, either the dismissal of an officer, shall be carried into execution, until it shall have been confirmed by the President.*

ART. 108. *No sentence of a court-martial, either in time of peace or in time of war, respecting a general officer, shall be carried into execution, until it shall have been confirmed by the Pres-*

105—Action upon Death Sentences. This Article is a provision of Art. 65 of the code of 1806, consolidated and modified by provisions of the Act of July 17, 1862, c. 201, the Act of March 3, 1863, c. 75, s. 21, and the Act of July 2, 1864, s. 1. The Article of 1806 had required the approval of the President in cases of death sentences, only in time of war. The Act of 1862 made this approval a requisite to the execution of death sentences. The Act of 1863 engrafted an exception to this general rule by authorizing the execution of such sentences "upon the approval of the commanding general in the field, or the order of the department, as the case may be," in cases of "any person convicted as a spy or deserter, or guilty of robbery or murder." The Act of 1864 extended this authority by empowering "the commanding general in the field, or the commander of the department as the case may be," to carry into execution all sentences imposed by *military commissions* upon *guerrilla-marauders* for robbery, arson, burglary, rape, assault with intent to commit rape, and for violations of the laws and customs of war." It may be observed that Art. 105, whether by sentence or otherwise, has included this class of war-criminals except to trial by *court-martial*: they are properly triable only by military commission,—the tribunal employed for their trial in the late war,—as the Act of 1864 recognizes.

The exceptions related to *time of war*, and are therefore so distinguished in the present Article. The effect of the Article is—that, in time of peace, and in time of war except in the particular cases specified, (when the military commanders individually finally act upon and enforce the sentence,) a confirma-

tion by the President is essential to authorize the execution of the death penalty.

In Chapter XXV will be considered in what consists the crime of the spy, and the crimes of desertion, mutiny and murder. What is the further offence of "violation of the laws and customs of war," and what is the class termed in the statute "guerrilla marauders," or, as they have commonly been designated, "guerrillas," will be set forth in PART II relating to the Law of War.

The established principle that a sentence of death, (or any other sentence,) requiring the confirmation of the President, must receive the approval of the proper military commander—the original Reviewing Officer—before it is forwarded or presented to the action of the President, or confirmed by him, has already been stated. Of course if such sentence is *disapproved* by such commander, nothing remains for the President to act upon, and the proceedings are not forwarded.

The further principle that, in the absence of any legal requirement as to the *form* of the confirmation, the same may be authenticated and declared by the Secretary of War, as the representative of the President, will be more particularly noticed under the next head.

Art. 106—Action upon Sentences of Dismissal. This Article is but a transcript of a provision to the same effect contained in Art. 65 of the code of 1806. In providing that, in time of *peace*, sentences of dismissal, in order to have effect, shall be confirmed by the President, it impliedly authorizes their being executed upon the approval of the proper military commander alone in time of *war*—an authority further conferred by Art. 109.

Form of confirmation—Authentication by the Secretary of War. The only material question which has been raised under this Article is whether the confirmation must appear to be the personal manual act of the President—as by his signature being affixed thereto; or whether the same may not be authenticated by the signature of the Secretary of War.

No form for the confirmation is prescribed by the Article, and in the absence of any requirement on the subject, the question indicated becomes a most simple one. It is determined by reference to one of the fundamental principles of the executive administration of the government, viz:—that the signing a

, by the head of the appropriate executive department, of order, direction, decision, or other formulated act in writing, and to be given or performed by the President, is a proper legal authentication of the will of the President in the case; the declaration on the subject of the head of department is presumed to be made with the knowledge and by the action of the President; and that the act of the former is, in application of law, the act of the latter. This legal presumption upon as it has been in all the administrative department from the earliest period, and without which the executive business of the government could not be carried on, has been accepted and illustrated in repeated decisions and rulings.¹

That this principle was applicable to the action of the President upon sentences of dismissal of officers, adjudged by court-martial, was held by Judge Advocate General Holt, in 1867, in Haddock's case, and by him and his successor in sundry recent cases, including the case, presently to be noticed, of Major Runkle. The ruling was to the effect that a sentence of dismissal of which the approval or confirmation was attested by signature of the Secretary of War, (as such action not unfrequently was attested during the war, as well as prior thereto and recently,) was to be presumed to have been duly approved and confirmed by the President.²

But in 1877, however, in the case of Major Runkle, (retired,) the action of whose dismissal, adjudged in 1873,³ was signed by the Secretary of War, it was determined by President Hayes that such form of action was insufficient in law, that the dismissal thus never been legally confirmed, and that Runkle was to be restored to the army: he therefore restored him to the service⁴ with some four and a half years—the period intervening since his dismissal taken upon his dismissal. This extraordinary ruling, however, did not become a precedent; it was condemned by the

Ilcox v. Jackson, 13 Peters, 498; *U. S. v. Eliason*, 16 Peters, 251; *Williams v. U. S.*, 17 Peters, 144; 1 Opins. At. Gen., 380; II Id., 453, 482, 725-6; IX Id., 463; XIII Id., 5; XIV Id., 453; 290; Opin. At. Gen., of Feb. 16, 1881, (Lieut. Newton's Case;) Dir. 1; G. O. 35 of 1850; Do. 110 of 1874.

GEST, 91.

C. M. O. 7 of 1873.

O. 20 of 1878.

Judiciary Committee of the Senate;¹ opinions directly counter to it were rendered by the Attorney General² and Judge Advocate General; and the claims of sundry other dismissed officers, cases, in respect to the form of the approval of the sentence identical with Runkle's case, and who forthwith applied to President to be restored to the army on this ground, were of them, favorably considered. Finally it was expressly determined by the Court of Claims that the action of the President was unauthorized, that Runkle was legally dismissed and legally restored, and a judgment for over nine thousand dollars for pay unlawfully received by him as an officer of the army, rendered against him.³ The exceptional action in this case, therefore, has been effectually repudiated; it has had, however, this result in practice, that approvals or confirmations of sentences of dismissal requiring the action of the President have since been and are now, authenticated by his own sign manual attached thereto.

Art. 108—Sentences respecting General Officers. The Article, repeated from a provision of Art. 65 of 1806, does not call for extended remark. It may merely be observed that a sentence "*respecting a general officer*" is a sentence imposing any punishment whatever, whether light or severe, upon an officer of that rank.

IV. ACTION OF COMMANDING GENERAL AS CONFIRMING AUTHORITY.

The statutes authorizing and defining this action are Articles 105 and 107.

1. Senate Report 868, 45th Cong., 3d Sess., March 3, 1879. [Two of the Committee of seven dissented.]

2. XV Opins. 290; Opins., in cases of Paymaster Post, U. S. N., Lieut. Armstrong, U. S. A., of Feb. 24, 1881, and June 28, 1882. In the first cited of these opinions, (the one given in Runkle's case,) it is marked that the Secretary, in signing the action, need not expressly declare it to be '*by the direction of the President*,' since the presumption always is that it is so; further that par. 918, Army Regs., does not apply to the action of the President upon proceedings of courts-martial.

3. Runkle v. U. S., 19 Ct. Cl. 396. And see reference to this case Chapter XXV—"Ninety-Ninth Article."

105. The cases in which, under this Article, sentences may be confirmed and executed by "*the commanding officer in the field, or the commander of the department,*" have been indicated under the Title of the Action of the President: Confirming authority.

107. This Article prescribes as follows:—"No sentence of court-martial appointed by the commander of a division or of a brigade of troops, directing the dismissal of an officer, shall be carried into execution until it shall have been confirmed by the commanding officer of the army in the field to which the division or brigade belongs."

This Article is a provision of the Act of Dec. 24, 1861, of which the main portion is contained in Article 73, considered in Chapter I, where are defined the terms "division" and "separate brigade." Like Art. 73, the present Article is operative only in time of war.

It need only be observed that, as in cases of sentences required to be confirmed by the President, the sentences indicated in this Article, preparatory to being confirmed by the army commander, must be duly *approved* by the officer who convened the court or presided over it in the command.

V. EXECUTION OF SENTENCES.

Law on the Subject. The general law authorizing the execution of sentences, (and which may be regarded as including sentences imposed by regimental and garrison as well as general courts-martial,) is contained in Art. 109, as follows:—"All sentences of a court-martial may be confirmed and carried into execution by the commanding officer of the court, or by the officer commanding for the time being where confirmation by the President, or by the commanding officer in the field, or commander of the department, is not required by these Articles."

Effect of the Article. The effect of this Article is, that the sentence may be executed or caused to be executed by the officer who ordered the court and has approved the sentence, (or his successor in command,) in all cases except those in which the President, by Art. 105, 106, or 108, or a superior commander, by Art. 107, is required finally to confirm the sentence; and that, in the excepted cases, the order for the execution shall proceed

from the President or such superior. In all but the excepted cases, the approval of the original reviewing officer remains a complete and sufficient warrant and order for the execution; and his action thereon is final and conclusive, and to forward the record for the action of the President, &c., must be not only superfluous but unauthorized.¹

Discretion of "the Officer ordering the Court," &c. The discretion of this officer is absolute under the Article in all cases not belonging to the excepted classes. Whether he shall confirm and execute the sentence rests entirely with him, and is for him alone to determine. Here no superior can direct or instruct him. Where the case involves a question of law or fact upon which, in a similar instance, an opinion has been expressed by an official superior, he will, as remarked in referring to the exercise of the power of approval under Art. 104, properly take such opinion into due consideration; but he is not required to concur therein, nor should he do so if the same does not accord with his own views of law and justice. To the exclusive authority here conferred upon him is attached an obligation to exercise such authority in conformity with law, and for the best interests of the service as he understands them.

The terms used in the Article. The technical or descriptive terms employed in Art. 109, such as "confirmed," "the officer ordering the court," "the officer commanding for the time being," have been construed in considering the subject of Approval and the provisions of Art. 104.

Execution of Specific Punishments. The execution of the different specific punishments imposable by sentence—death, dismissal, imprisonment, forfeiture, reduction, discharge, &c., has already been fully considered in Chapter XX.

General principle governing Execution—Punishments not to be added to. When a legal military sentence has been duly passed upon and approved by the competent authority, "it

1. Where the sentence "may be lawfully carried into execution" the confirmation of the officer ordering the court, neither the President nor Secretary has lawful authority to approve or disapprove" the same XI Opins. At. Gen., 251. And see G. O. 341 of 1863.

mes," in the language of the U. S. Supreme Court,¹ "final must be executed;" that is to say unless the power of pardon or mitigation, conferred by Art. 112, be interposed. That adjudged punishment may not be *added to*, by or through action or order of the reviewing officer, is a fundamental principle of the law of the execution of sentences.² Thus a sentence of simple dismissal, suspension, or discharge may not be made to work a forfeiture of pay,³ nor may a sentence of imprisonment be made to involve compulsory hard labor or solitary confinement.⁴ This principle has also been illustrated by a comparison of the different punishments in Chapter XX. The marked instance in our military history of a violation of this principle was the action of General Jackson, when commanding in Florida in 1818, in the case of Robert C. Ambrister, tried by general court-martial for inciting and aiding the Creeks in waging war against the United States. The court first sentenced the accused to be shot; then, having reconsidered, as it is legally and regularly do, its judgment, substituted therefor a milder punishment—which thereupon became the legal and binding sentence—"to receive fifty stripes on the bare back and be chained with a ball and chain to hard labor for twelve calendar months." In acting upon the case as reviewing officer, General Jackson disapproved of the reconsideration, approved—as he could legally do, since it did not exist—the first sentence, and ordered that the accused "be shot to death agreeably to the sentence of the court;" and he was shot accordingly.⁵ This order only contained a false statement of fact, but—not being an act of war or resorted to in the exercise of martial law, but official action taken upon the proceedings of a court-martial under the rules of war—was wholly arbitrary and illegal. For such an act and its execution a military commander would *now* be held liable for murder.

Dynes v. Hoover, 20 Howard, 81.

Harcourt, 133, 146; Maltby, 101; XI Opins. At. Gen., 139; Digest, 66, 286, 287, 428, 437, 451, 469.

DIGEST, 270.

DIGEST, 286.

The record of this trial, with that of A. Arbuthnot tried by the same court, is contained in full in American State Papers, Military Affairs, vol. 721-734. And see Printed Trials of Arbuthnot and Ambrister, London, 1819.

Conclusive effect of an Executed Sentence. It is a general principle that a sentence once duly approved or confirmed and carried into execution, is beyond the reach, *i. e.* not subject to the action, of the Reviewing Officer, in the exercise of his authority under the Articles of war. In the first instance a sentence thus duly executed is wholly beyond the control of the *revisory function*—is no longer subject to review by the commanding officer who has approved or the President who has confirmed. Of course a thing *done*—as an imprisonment undergone, for example—cannot, physically, be *undone*.¹ But where, as in the case of a sentence of dismissal of an officer or of the forfeiture of the pay of a soldier—here also the sentence cannot be reopened, nor can the executed penalty be reversed, rescinded, or modified.² Further, such a sentence is beyond the reach of the *pardonning power*: neither can the commander, under the authority conferred by Art. 112, “pardon or mitigate” an executed punishment, nor can the President remit it by a pardon of the offender under the Constitution.³ Thus, as to a sentence of court-martial when duly and fully executed, the Reviewing Officer is *functus officio*, his authority is exhausted; some remedy quite outside of the powers of revision and pardon must be resorted to for the rehabilitation or relief of the party. An officer, for example, duly dismissed the service by sentence of court-martial cannot be restored to the army by an attempted review of the confirmation or setting aside of the sentence, or by pardon or remission, but can be so restored only by a new appointment made by the President and confirmed by the Senate. A soldier reduced to the ranks by a duly-approved sentence cannot be restored to the grade of a non-commissioned officer only by a new appointment as such on the part of the competent military authority. On the other hand, an officer or soldier who has been condemned by an executed sentence to forfeit or pay to the United States a sum of money, can be relieved from or

1. See *Hoffman v. Coster*, 2 Whart. 468.

2. IV Opins. At. Gen., 170, 274; VI Id., 369, 514; X Id., 64, 291, 433; Opin. Id., of March 15, 1882, (Gen. F. J. Porter's) DIGEST, 237, 389-90, 439, 453.

3. *Ex parte Garland*, 4 Wallace, 381; XII Opins. At. Gen., 54, DIGEST, 237, 390, 439, 453. As to the remission of *continuing* forfeitures, see *post*.

sed for such payment, only by an act of legislation in his
alf on the part of Congress.

VI. SUSPENSION OF EXECUTION OF SENTENCES.

Art. 111. The provision of law on this subject is contained
his Article, as follows:—“*Any officer who has authority to carry
execution the sentence of death, or of dismissal of an officer,
suspend the same until the pleasure of the President shall be
own; and, in such case, he shall immediately transmit to the
sident a copy of the order of suspension, together with a copy
he proceedings of the court.*”

Effect and Object of the Article. This Article, derived
a provision to a similar effect of Art. 89 of 1806, extends to
ers, when authorized, (under Art. 105, 106, or 107,) to execute
ences of death or dismissal, the privilege of suspending the
cution of the same till they shall have been submitted to and
lly acted upon by the President; in other words the privilege
levolving upon the President the responsibility of the action
e taken upon such sentences.

The principal object, however, of the Article, which is opera-
e only *in time of war*, would appear to be, not to relieve com-
nding officers of their due responsibility in proper cases,¹ but
afford an opportunity for the remission or mitigation of a sen-
ce of death or dismissal when, in the opinion of the com-
nder, it should properly be remitted or mitigated.² The power
pardon or mitigation in cases of such sentences cannot, even
time of war, legally be exercised by a military reviewing offi-
r, but, by Art. 112, is expressly reserved to the President.³ By
e suspending, therefore, of the execution of the sentence as
licated in the Article, an opportunity is afforded for the ex-
ise of executive clemency, if the President think proper to
tend it.

Approval a prerequisite to Suspension. As has already
en remarked, the exercise of the function specified in this Ar-
le must have been preceded by a formal *approval* of the sen-

¹ See G. O. 139, A. & I. G. O., Richmond, 1863.

² Note context of Art. 89 of 1806.

³ See G. O. 97, 101, 147, of 1863; VI Opins. At. Gen., 124-5.

tence by the officer; in other words, the execution of a sentence which has not been duly approved, or which has been disapproved, by the convening authority, (or his successor in command,) cannot legally be *suspended*, nor can the sentence be acted upon by the President under the Article.¹

Transmission of the Order and Proceedings. The "order of suspension" is merely the official statement, appended to the record after the sentence, and signed by the reviewing authority, to the effect that the sentence is approved but its execution suspended, and that the proceedings are transmitted to the President for his action under the 111th Article of war. The transmittal of *copies* only is called for by the Article: in practice, however, the original proceedings, with the original action of the reviewing officer, are always forwarded.

"The Pleasure of the President." This term is a broad one, and the Article has been construed in practice as not limiting the President to a remission or mitigation of the punishment or punishments, but as empowering him to approve or disapprove the suspended sentence, (or to approve in part and disapprove as to other part,) in the same manner and with the same effect as if it had been a sentence to the execution of which his confirmation was made requisite by Art. 105 or 106.²

VII. PARDON AND MITIGATION OF PUNISHMENTS

Art. 112. This provision, derived from Art. 89 of the code of 1806, and which completes the grant of powers to the officer authorized to act upon the sentences of courts-martial, is expressed as follows:—"Every officer who is authorized to order a general court-martial shall have power to pardon or mitigate any punishment adjudged by it, except the punishment of death or of dismissal of an officer."

Nature of the Authority Conferred. This Article confers upon the commanders specified two distinct powers—a power to "pardon" and a power to "mitigate." As to the former, though of a quality similar to that of the pardoning function

1. G. O. 209 of 1863; DIGEST, 92.

2. DIGEST, 92.

ted in the President by the Constitution, is different from and prior to the same in effect and scope. That is a *plenary* power pardon the *offence* and the *offender*, by the exercise of which the stigma of the conviction is done away with, the penalties and disabilities incident thereto or to the sentence are removed, and the offender is personally completely rehabilitated in law.¹ But the power given by the Article is a power only to "pardon" a punishment," that is to say a power of *remission*; and if the word *remit*—the term properly describing the pardoning of a punishment—were substituted for the word *pardon* in the Article, its nomenclology would be less antiquated² and more precise. The exercise of this limited power simply relieves the accused in whole or in part from the *punishment*; the guilt of the offender found, and the penal liabilities consequent thereupon, remain unaffected in law.³ Thus a mere remission of the punishment adjudged a deserter will not relieve him from the civil disqualification attached by statute⁴ to his conviction; nor, in a case contemplated by Art. 100, will such a remission relieve an officer from the consequence, incident upon his conviction and sentence, of not being associated with by other officers: in either case a pardon of the offender will be necessary to restore the forfeited right.⁵ But remission, as above indicated, is of the quality of par-

1. "The pardon makes him, as it were, a new man, and gives him a new capacity and credit." 2 Hawkins, c. 37, s. 48. And see *Ex parte Garland*, 4 Wallace, 380; *People v. Pease*, 3 Johns. Cas. 334; IX Opins. At. Gen., 478; XII Id., 124; DIGEST, 356, 426. A pardon by the President will in general restore all rights of property lost by the conviction. *Johnson v. U. S.*, 91 U. S. 474. It will not, *per se*, operate to remove a penalty or disability attached by a State statute. VII Opins. At. Gen., 10. It does not extend to forfeitures *by operation of law*, since these are not punishments. (1 Bishop, C. L. § 709.) That the pardoning power of the President cannot be restricted by Congress, see—*Ex parte Garland*, 4 Wallace, 334; *U. S. v. Klein*, 13 Id., 141, 148; V Opins. At. Gen., 582; VI Id., 402; VIII Id., 282; Cooley, Const. Lims., 140.

2. The term has been derived without change from the early codes of 75 and 1776.

3. DIGEST, 426.

4. DIGEST, 225, 356. As to the distinction between remission and pardon, compare *Perkins v. Stevens*, 24 Pick. 277; *Lee v. Murphy*, 22 Id. 799; 1 Bishop, C. L. § 763; II Opins. At. Gen., 329; V Id., 588; III Id., 283-4.

5. As those imposed upon deserters by Secs. 1996, 1998, Rev. Sts. Forfeitures by operation of law remain unaffected—as those attaching to the operation of Sec. 1265, Rev. Sts., and pars. 220 and 2458, Army Regs.

don—is indeed pardon of an inferior degree, the power to pardon including the power to remit.¹ The attributes therefore of the constitutional pardoning power of the President will be found to characterize in a measure the power of remission possessed by the reviewing officers, who indeed, in the exercise of this power, may be regarded as the agents or representatives of the Executive in military cases.

As to the power to “*mitigate*,” this is quite a distinct authority. Unlike the power to remit, it is not a form of pardon power but is a power attached as an *incident* to the power to review courts and approve and execute their sentences, being simply a discretion vested in the reviewing officer to reduce, when deemed by him just or expedient, the measure of punishment awarded by the court.² Its use will be illustrated hereafter.

By whom the Powers may be Exercised under the Article. The Article describes in general terms the persons to whom the powers specified may be exercised, by the words: “Every officer who is authorized to order a general court-martial.” A better designation—one more in harmony with the other provisions relating to the action of the reviewing authority—may be: “Any officer authorized to execute the sentence of a court-martial.” As expressed, the Article includes—(1) the officers authorized by Arts. 72, 73, 81 and 82, and Sec. 1326, Rev. Stat. to order certain courts, and who have ordered such courts, and have adjudged sentences; (2) the successors in command of such officers, or “commanding for the time being”—a class also defined in construing Arts. 104 and 109.

An officer thus authorized must of course exercise *personally* the powers conferred: he cannot *delegate* the same—to an inferior commander or staff officer—any more than he may delegate the power to order the court or approve its proceedings.³

Subject and Limit of their Exercise. The Article authorizes the pardon or mitigation of “any punishment adjudged

1. III Opins. At. Gen., 418; Flanders, Expos. of Const., 172.

2. That the President, when acting as reviewing or confirming officer, may exercise the power of mitigation, (which he cannot exercise as constitutional pardoning power,) was held by Atty. Gen. Berrien, II Op. At. Gen., 289. And see DIGEST, 390.

3. DIGEST, 93.

two specified exceptions. From the use of the term *punish-* instead of *sentence*, it is apparent that it was intended that powers conferred should be exercised with regard to a punishment or punishments as such. Thus where the sentence embraces several punishments, that or those designed to be remitted mitigated should be separately and specifically acted upon. It is not taken upon the sentence in the aggregate, by which the sentence may be rendered less severe as a whole, while no particular punishment is remitted, commuted, or mitigated, will not constitute a legal exercise of the authority conferred by the Article.¹ The Article, in excepting "the punishment of death or of disqualification of an officer," reserves to the President alone the power of pardoning or mitigating the punishments named. And this reservation, being expressed in general terms, is operative even in time of war, when, though these penalties may be finally applied and executed by certain military commanders, they cannot be remitted or mitigated by them. There seems to be no apparent reason why, where the one power is accorded, the other should not also be,² but such is the existing law.

Exercise of Pardoning Power by the President

The President, where he is Reviewing Officer, *viz.* when he acts upon the sentence of a court convened by himself, or a court of review requiring his confirmation or action, while he may of course exert the plenary power vested in him by the Constitution, he almost invariably exercises a partial pardoning power by remission of the punishment analogous to that conferred upon military officers by Art. 112. In *other* military cases,—as in cases of applications or appeals addressed to him for clemency by officers or soldiers, whose sentences have been sometime finally confirmed upon by the competent authority and who are undergoing punishment,—here, where he acts not as reviewing officer but as appellate pardoning power, he exercises a full or limited exercise of such power according to circumstances. In some cases formal pardons were issued by the President to enemies under sentence,³ but at present, in cases of prisoners

¹ See further under "Mitigation," *post.*

² The Act of July 2, 1864, did indeed authorize commanders of detachments and armies in the field to remit or mitigate these punishments only "during the present rebellion."

³ The early Order books in the A. G. O. contain formal

confined at Leavenworth or Alcatraz Island, the mere remission in Orders¹ of the unexecuted portion of the punishment of imprisonment is the form, commonly, of the act of grace. In cases of *officers* under sentence, formal pardons, in terms similar to the pardons issued to civilian offenders, have more frequently been granted,² but even these have not been common.

Attributes of the Power of Pardon or Remission.—1
It is coextensive with the punishment. The plenary constitutional power of pardon is said to be coextensive with the punishment,³ and so—within its scope—has been held to be the power of remission.⁴ Thus its exercise is not restricted to the time and occasion of the formal approval of the sentence by the reviewing authority, but may be resorted to at any stage of the execution of the punishment, and so long as any portion of the same remains unexecuted. What remains, for example, of a term of imprisonment of a soldier may be remitted, at any time before its expiration, by the commander who originally ordered the court and approved the sentence, or by his successor meanwhile in the command, provided of course the soldier is still confined within the command.⁵ So, a *continuing* punishment—as one of disqualification to hold office, or of a loss of files—may be remitted at any time during the life of its subject.⁶ The President has frequently pardoned military punishments pending the period of their enforcement, and in repeated instances at or near the end of

by President Monroe to soldiers, under sentence of death for desertion or mutiny, dated March 17, 1817, and March 5, Oct. 13, and Dec. 22, 1818.

1. The President, in remitting punishments, may act through the Secretary of War, in Orders emanating from the War Department, as he may in approving or confirming sentences. See *ante*—"Art. 106."

2. A formal pardon was issued to Fitz John Porter, formerly Maj. Gen., on May 4, 1882; but this in terms only *remitted* the *punishment*, i. e. the continuing punishment of disqualification for office adjudged by sentence of court-martial in January, 1863.

3. 'Coextensive with the offence and the punishment'—is the full description. Rawle on the Const., 178; *Ex parte* Garland, 4 Wall. 380; II Opins. At. Gen., 289, 329; III Id., 418; IV Id., 433; V Id., 582; VIII Id., 283.

4. DIGEST, 93; Simmons § 785.

5. DIGEST, 93.

6. DIGEST, 358; XII Opins. At. Gen., 547; Opins. Id., in the cases of Gen. Porter and Lieut. Nordstrom, of March 15, 1882, and February 1884.

war remitted the unexpired portions of the sentences of class of offenders, in and by one and the same General

The same course was also pursued by department and commanders.² At present, department commanders are authorized to exercise, and not unfrequently do exercise, or in question, though, in the cases of the prisoners confined in the two military prisons, the remissions, where accorded, fully ordered by the President through the Secretary of

may be full or partial. That is to say, where a sentence includes several punishments, the President, or a commander thereto authorized by Art. 112, may remit all, or one or more, and a remission of one will not affect the authority to execute or interrupt the execution of, another or the others.³ So a punishment may be remitted at one time and another part at a subsequent time.⁴ A full and unqualified remission—it may be—of a particular punishment will operate to remit an entire punishment the execution of which is made dependent on the execution of the other. Thus a remission of a term, or an unexpired portion of the term, of an imprisonment, will operate as a penalty of dishonorable discharge directed by the sentence to take effect at the end of the full term.⁵

may be extended to a class of persons. The power is restricted to the pardoning, or remitting of the punishment, in respect to the individual at a time. The authority of the President, in the exercise of his pardoning power, to extend amnesty to a class of sim-

² G. C. M. O. 98 of 1865; Do. 46 of 1866; G. O. 19, Mid. Mil. Div. 66.

³ G. O. 8, Mil. Div. of the Tenn., 1865, Maj. Gen. Thomas remitted unexpired terms of 245 military prisoners confined in the military prison at Nashville. And see Do. 26, Id.; Do. 2, 3, 7, Id., 1866—in each case a similar authority was exercised in a large number of cases. The exercise of the power on the part of commanders of departments has been affirmed by the Atty. General, in the opinion above cited in the case of Lieut. Nordstrom, of February 11, 1884.

⁴ *Ex parte Stevens*, 24 Pick. 280. And compare the provision of the Act of Feb. 20, 1863, now incorporated in Sec. 5330, Rev. Sts.

⁵ Opins. At. Gen., 418.

EST, 358.

ilar offenders has been affirmed by the authorities,¹ and has been repeatedly, by proclamation or general order, offered pardons to *deserters* who may return to duty within a time specified. This instance indeed illustrates another attribute of the power of pardon, *viz.* that it may be exercised prior to the conviction or trial of the offender.²

4. It may be unqualified or conditional. That a pardon or remission may be conditional, and that the condition may be *precedent* or *subsequent*, is settled law.³ During the period especially of the late war pardons on express conditions were unfrequent in military cases. Thus sentences were remitted on the conditions precedent—that the accused re-enlisted, or enlisted ‘during the war;’⁴ that he paid back certain bounty money received by him;⁵ that he paid a fine, or part of a fine imposed on his sentence;⁶ or gave satisfactory security for its payment;⁷ that he turned over the company fund in his hands;⁸ that he made good an amount found to have been embezzled by him;⁹ that he reimbursed the expenses incurred in his apprehension as a deserter,¹⁰ or the value of public property, (as a horse, carbine, &c.) appropriated in deserting,¹¹ or that he made good the time lost by his absence;¹² that he allotted certain pay sentenced to be

1. U. S. v. Klein, 13 Wallace, 141, 147. And see *Armstrong v. U. S.*, Id., 154; *Pargoud v. U. S.*, Id., 156; *Cooley*, Prins. Const. Law Do., Const. Law, 139.

2. In *military* cases the instances in which the pardoning power has been exercised before trial have generally been of the class known as *constructive* pardons. See *post*—“Constructive pardon;” also of pardon,” in Chapter XVI.

3. 2 Hawk., c. 37, s. 45; 4 Black. Com. 401; 1 Bishop, C. L. § 77; *S. v. Wilson*, 7 Peters, 150; *Ex parte Wells*, 18 How. 307; *Com. v. Garty*, 4 Brewst. 326; 1 Opins. At. Gen., 77, 341, 482; *V. Id.*, 368; *X. Id.*, 405; *XI. Id.*, 229; *XIV. Id.*, 124.

4. G. O. 3, 6, 104, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1864. Compare 1 *Com.*, 308.

5. G. O. 184, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1864.

6. G. C. M. O. 428, 640, of 1865.

7. G. G. M. O. 117 of 1864.

8. G. C. M. O. 14 of 1868.

9. G. C. M. O. 228 of 1865. And see DIGEST, 359 § 1c.

10. G. O. 29, Dept. of the Platte, 1869.

11. G. O. 32, Dept. of the Platte, 1869.

12. G. O. cited in note 11.

d, or other pay, to the support of his family.¹ Similarly sentences of military commissions have been remitted on the common precedent that the accused took an oath of allegiance and obedience to the laws, or gave bond for his future good behaviour, &c.²

3, though more rarely, military pardons have been granted on less conditions *subsequent*. As where an officer was pardoned on condition of his resigning his commission;³ where the sentences of soldiers in confinement were remitted on condition that they faithfully served their full terms of enlistment;⁴ where, in certain cases tried by military commission, the sentences were remitted on the condition that the party should forthwith quit a certain place or part of the country and remain absent during the war;⁵ or that he should engage in no illicit trade, nor aid or have intercourse with the enemy, during the war.⁶

Where the pardon is conditional, the condition must be *accepted* by the beneficiary:⁷ in military cases, the acceptance is more com-

G. C. M. O. 214 of 1864; Do. 503, 668, of 1865.

1. G. C. M. O. 103, 119, 151, 156, 203, 229, 251, 256, 270, 528, of 1865.

2. See I Opins. At. Gen., 343.

3. G. O. 46 of 1866. And see G. C. M. O. 94 of 1867; G. O. 104, pt. of Va. & No. Ca., 1864; G. O. 108, Dept. of the East, 1872. Compare the terms of the offers of amnesty to deserters in G. O. 43 of 1866; Do. 102 of 1873.

4. G. O. 34, Dept. of Washington, 1865. So, it is held in the civil cases that a condition attached to a pardon of a convict sentenced to imprisonment, that he leave the State or the country, and do not return during his term or at all, is a valid condition; and that if, after accepting the condition, he does return, he may be remanded to prison to serve his sentence. *Flavell's Case*, 8 W. & S. 199; *Com. v. Haggarty*, 4 W. 326; *People v. Potter*, 1 Edmonds, 235; *Ex parte Lockhart*, 12 W. 105.

5. G. C. M. O. 99 of 1865. In Do. 131, Id., the party, sentenced to be imprisoned 'to the end of the rebellion,' was "enlarged to remain at liberty so long as he does not misbehave."

6. "The offender may accept or not at his option." VI Opins. At. Gen., 405. For "the condition may be more objectionable than the punishment." *U. S. v. Wilson*, 7 Peters, 161. And see V Opins. At. Gen., 537; *Lee v. Murphy*, 22 Grat. 798.

7. Some form of acceptance indeed is necessary to give effect to *any* pardon. As the court say in *U. S. v. Wilson*, *ante*—"A pardon is a deed the validity of which delivery is essential, and delivery is not complete until acceptance." And see In the matter of De Puy, 3 Benedict, 105.

See also DIGEST, 356, where it is held that there can be no pardon

monly indicated, not formally, but by his voluntarily submitting to the proceeding or performing the act required as a condition. As remarked by the court in a case in Pennsylvania²—"It is upon the grantee to perform the condition. If he does not, in case of a condition precedent, the pardon does not take effect; in case of a condition subsequent, the pardon becomes null; and if the condition is not performed the original sentence remains in full vigor and may be carried into effect."

The condition, whether precedent or subsequent, must be reasonable, and not repugnant to the grant.³

Commutation. Here is to be considered the subject of commutation of sentences, commutation being a form of conditional pardon. Mitigation, as will hereafter be noticed, is a reduction of a punishment in degree or quantity only; the power to mitigate not authorizing the changing of the species of penalty adjudged. But there are certain punishments not susceptible of being reduced in degree; consequently where one of these is imposed by the court, and the same is deemed too severe a penalty to be inflicted upon the accused, who yet, it is considered, deserves some measure of punishment, the mere power of mitigation is inadequate for the occasion, and *commutation* is the substitution of a lesser penalty of a different nature, thus being resorted to. Death and dismissal, for example, are punishments

of a *deceased* person because such a pardon cannot be delivered and accepted.

1. In civil cases the condition is often formally accepted in writing upon the pardon by the beneficiary. In *Ex parte Wells*, 18 How. 307, the form of acceptance was as follows:—"I hereby accept the pardon and within pardon, with condition annexed." And see the similar form of acceptance in *Lee v. Murphy*, 22 Grat. 790.

2. *Flavell's Case*, 8 W. & S., 199. Or, as the law is stated by Bishop (1 C. L. § 914)—"If the condition of the pardon is precedent, that by its terms, some event is to transpire before it takes effect, its operation is deferred until the event occurs. If the condition is subsequent, the pardon goes into operation immediately, yet becomes void when the condition is broken." In *Ex parte Wells*, the law is stated that where the condition is not performed, "the party may be brought to the bar and remanded to suffer the punishment to which he was originally sentenced." If the conditional pardon has been granted *absolutely*, and the condition not performed, the party may be brought to trial for his offence. See DIGEST, 359 § 9.

3. *People v. Pease*, 3 Johns. Cas. 335. *Flavell's Case*, *ante*; *Potter v. Potter*, 1 Edmonds, 235; *Com. v. Haggarty*, 4 Brewst. 326.

admitting of lesser degrees or capable of being mitigated; must therefore, when deemed too rigorous, be exchanged or muted for distinct penalties of minor severity.

Thus death may be commuted to dismissal or dishonorable discharge, or to imprisonment, or to both,—indeed to any recognized military penalty or combination of penalties, since any such duty or combination is in law less grievous than the *summum delictum* of death. So, dismissal may be commuted to suspension, loss of files, or other punishment appropriate to an officer less severe than an absolute and disgraceful separation from army.² And, in a case of an enlisted man, a sentence of dishonorable discharge or reduction to the ranks may be commuted to moderate forfeiture of pay.

It is to be noted, however, that commutation, though more appropriate to cases of punishments which do not admit of mitigation, is not restricted to these in its application. It thus may be resorted to in cases where mitigation is permissible and in lieu thereof. Thus a considerable term of imprisonment, instead of being mitigated to a less term, may be commuted to a forfeiture of a small amount of pay.³

As above indicated, the proceeding of commutation, according to the weight of authority, is to be viewed as a pardon or remission of the punishment on the condition subsequent that the offender will willingly receive and undergo a less severe punishment of a different nature⁴—a condition which, like all conditions an-

Suspension has indeed sometimes been regarded as an inferior degree of the punishment of dismissal, and as a penalty to which the latter might therefore be *mitigated*. (See IV Opins. At. Gen., 434 ; V Id., 100.) But such view is a mistaken one, dismissal being an absolute and complete separation of the person from the military office and from the rights of a status admitting of no degrees. Dismissal is therefore *commuted*, not mitigated, when suspension is substituted for it by the pardoning power.

Dismissal has in a few cases been *commuted* to reprimand. See *Opinion* in G. C. M. O. 18 of 1868.

In substituting one distinct punishment for another by commutation, special care is to be taken that the rule forbidding any *adding to the punishment* by the reviewing officer is not transgressed.

As to the nature of commutation as being a form of conditional pardon, see DIGEST, 93 § 5. The leading adjudged case on the subject is *partie Wells*, 18 Howard, 307, with which see *Opinion of the Justices*, 14 Mass. 472 ; *Perkins v. Stevens*, 24 Pick. 278 ; *Lee v. Murphy*, 100 Mass. 789 ; *Cooley*, Prins. Const. Law, 100 ;—also V Opins. 100, in which is practically overruled an earlier opinion of

nexed to pardons, must be accepted or the grant will have no effect. In military cases, the acceptance is in general given formally, but impliedly by the party's entering upon the duty without objection, and duly undergoing, the substituted punishment.

Like other conditional pardon, commutation is, in practice, employed at the time of the approval or confirmation of a sentence or punishment: unlike remission, it is rarely if ever granted to at a later stage.

Constructive Pardon. A party may sometimes be pardoned of punishment by an executive act attaching to him a status consistent with the infliction or continuance of such punishment. An act of this character operates as an implied, or, as it is sometimes designated, *constructive* pardon.¹ Thus the appointment of a new officer of an officer in arrest under charges will operate to pardon constructively the offence with which he is arrested. So, the promotion of an officer under sentence of suspension to a higher rank, or the replacing in his proper command, by authority competent to remit the sentence, of an officer under sentence

I Opins. 328, in which commutation is confused with mitigation. It may be added that the phraseology of some of the existing statutes also tended to confuse the student. Thus, while the Act of 1866, provided that in time of peace no officer should be dismissed in pursuance of the sentence of a general court-martial *commutation* thereof," using here the proper term, this term was retained in one part of the Revised Statutes,—Sec. 1229,—but was carelessly changed to "*mitigation*" in the 99th Art. of war and 36 of the naval code.

It may be noted in this connection that the naval code—in Arts. 32 and 33—expressly prohibits the commutation of sentences.

The provision of the modern British code corresponding to Art. 112—Army Act § 57. (1.)—expressly empowers the reviewing authority to '*remit, mitigate, or commute*' punishments adjudged by a court-martial,—a form of conveying the power much to be preferred to that retained in our statute.

1. See *ante* as to acceptance of conditional pardons in general.

2. DIGEST, 359; VI Opins. At. Gen., 715. But the mere appointment of an officer under sentence of suspension to attend a court-martial as witness, does not operate as such pardon. *Id.*, 714.

In Sir Walter Raleigh's Case, (Cro. Jac., 495; Prendergast, 100) it was held that had his offence been less than treason,—had it been felony,—his being released from imprisonment while awaiting the execution of his sentence, and placed in command of an army and sent on a foreign expedition, would have operated as an implied pardon.

3. VIII Opins. At. Gen., 237; DIGEST, 358.

sion from command, will constructively pardon and terminate suspension.¹ So, the ordering on active duty of a soldier after a sentence of confinement will have the same effect as a final remission of the punishment.² Similarly, a *constructive* remission of a sentence of confinement of a soldier is effected there, pending the execution of a confinement adjudged to be served during the remainder of his term of enlistment, a discharge from the service is given him by competent authority.³ The subject of constructive pardon, as granted prior to trial, already been considered under the title of the Plea of Pardon, Chapter XVII.

Mitigation. This, which, as already observed, is distinct from and not included in the pardoning power,⁴ differs from commutation in that it consists, not in changing the quality of the punishment or in substituting a different punishment for it, but simply in reducing it in quantity.⁵ Thus an imprisonment or suspension adjudged for a certain term is mitigated by reducing it to one for a less term;⁶ a fine or forfeiture of a certain amount, reducing it to one of a less amount;⁷ a loss of a certain num-

IV Opins. At. Gen., 8; VI Id., 123, 715; McNaghten, 22; DIGEST,

But allowing an officer under sentence of suspension from rank to recover property, &c., with a view to settling his accounts as acting quartermaster, has been held not to have any such effect. DIGEST, 359.

1. See De Hart, 249; Benét, 168; G. O. 98, Dept. of the East, 1868.

2. This ruling of the Judge Advocate General was approved by the Secretary of War, and communicated to department commanders, from the A. G. O., under date of Aug. 12, 1871. See the same, (published as a Circular of the Secretary,) in G. O. 72, Dept. of Dakota, 1871; G. C. M. O. 1, Dept. of the Mo., 1871; Circ., No. 15, Dept. of Texas, 1871.

3. That the President may exercise the power of mitigation only in the capacity of reviewing officer, see note *ante*, citing II Opins. At. Gen., 3; DIGEST, 390.

4. "The right of *mitigating* only extends, in my opinion, to lessening the degree of punishment in the same species prescribed, and does not imply any authority to change the nature or quality of it altogether." Washington to Gates, Feb. 14, 1778. Spark's Writings of Washington, vol. 5, p. 236. And see DIGEST, 93; Circ. 2 of 1885; also I Opins. At. Gen., 328, 331; IV Id., 433, 446. [These Opins., however, so far as they relate to *commutation*, were corrected by V Opins. 369. See note *ibid.*]

5. In the late war, imprisonments for life or for very long periods were unfrequently mitigated to imprisonment "during the rebellion."

6. A general forfeiture of pay, imposed in connection with a sentence, has sometimes been mitigated by directing that

ber of files, by reducing it to one of a fewer number.¹ The punishment as mitigated must be *ejusdem generis* with the original, that is to say must be a part of the very punishment imposed by the court.²

Pardon and mitigation, though separate functions, may co-exist in action. Thus where a sentence imposes imprisonment and forfeiture, the reviewing authority may at the same time remit the imprisonment and mitigate the forfeiture, or *vice versa*.

A mitigation must of course be preceded by an approval or confirmation, in whole or in part, of the sentence, since, if the sentence is wholly *disapproved*, there remains nothing to be mitigated. The punishment at least which is mitigated must have been approved, although other punishments contained in the sentence may have been disapproved. But mitigation, unlike pardon, (and *like* commutation,) is rarely if ever employed at a stage subsequent to the approval or confirmation, but, in practice, is contemporaneous with and a part of the same action.

As already noticed, the power conferred by Art. 112 is to mitigate, &c., a *punishment*, not the *sentence*. So, where a sentence contains several punishments, action taken thereon which detracts from the severity of the sentence in the aggregate but does not specifically reduce any punishment as such, is not a legal exercise of the power of mitigation. Thus where a court-martial sentenced a soldier to be dishonorably discharged and then imprisoned for a certain term, and the reviewing officer directed that the discharge be *postponed* till after the imprisonment, it was held by the Judge Advocate General that this action was not *legally* mitigation and was unauthorized.³ A case illustrating the same point and also the principle that an adjudged punishment can

\$10 or \$20, or 'so much of that amount as may be found due the soldier on the settlement of his account,' be retained and paid him on his discharge from confinement. See, for example, G. C. M. O. 1, 4, 8, 10, Dept. of the South, 1881. The object of this form of mitigation is to provide against the party's being discharged in a destitute condition. *Practically*, it is uncertain and scarcely to be recommended in general.

1. Or a public reprimand to a private. G. O. 31, Dept. of the East, 1868. So, a sentence of imprisonment for three years in a penitentiary has been held to be "mitigable to an imprisonment for two years in military prison." DIGEST, 94.

2. See I Opins. At. Gen., 327; IV Id., 434, 447.

3. See this opinion published as approved by the Secretary of War in G. O. 71 of 1875, and incorporated in par. 905, Army Regs.

ded to, was that of a naval officer in which it was held by the military. General that the President could not legally mitigate the sentence of five years' suspension from rank to one of six months' suspension with forfeiture of pay for the same period, although by such action the sentence would as a whole be rendered less severe.¹

Grounds of Pardon or Mitigation. The subject may well be illustrated by noting here some of the principal grounds upon which the discretion to "pardon or mitigate" has been, in practice, exercised under the Article. Among these, which are as varied as the circumstances of the different cases tried, are the following:—That the accused had been formally recommended for clemency by members of the court; that his previous general character or conduct had been exemplary; that his record in war and in military hostilities had been good; that he had received a wound or a certificate of merit; that the war services of his father or family had been distinguished; that he had behaved with gallantry before the enemy since the commission of his offence; that he had been required to take part or had voluntarily taken part in an engagement while under arrest; that he had been held for an unreasonable time in arrest or confinement before trial, or while awaiting action on his sentence; that he had already been subjected to a disciplinary punishment by his commander; that he had been punished by the civil authorities for the civil offence involved in his act; that he had never had read to him, or been informed of, the Articles of war; that he had been but a short time in the United States, or had but an imperfect knowledge of the English language; that he was a recruit or unusually young and inexperienced; that he had been required to perform an unreasonable proportion of an onerous duty; that he had been improperly put on duty when under the influence of liquor; that, if a deserter, he had voluntarily returned or surrendered himself; that his offence had been induced in part by the harsh treatment or unjustifiable conduct of a superior, or had been attended by circumstances of provocation or extenuation to which the court had not given sufficient weight, or—the punishment being man-

IV Opins. At. Gen., 444. And see V Id., 46. Action which diminishes the severity of the sentence as a whole, by mitigating and increasing another, would, as to the *latter* process, be operative.

uatory—could not legally allow to affect the sentence; that his health was such that he could not safely undergo the confinement adjudged; that his conduct had been good in confinement; that he had become morally reformed; that a remission of his sentence had been asked for by civil officials or other citizens of high standing; that he had testified fully and honestly as a material witness for the government on another trial. In cases of officers, the more usual grounds have been that their military record, especially in war, has been distinguished, or their public service valuable; that they have borne a high personal character; that their offences were not apparently actuated by a fraudulent criminal intent; that they had made good to the United States or to individuals the losses occasioned by their misconduct; that they were wholly unable to satisfy a fine imposed by the sentence; that the payment of a forfeiture adjudged would impoverish the families, &c.

These and similar circumstances, while, (unless connected with the merits of the case,) not such as legitimately to affect the judgment of the court, may, especially when two or more exist in combination, properly be taken into consideration by the Reviewing Officer in determining how much of the sentence it may be just or expedient to execute.¹

VIII. FORMULATING OF ACTION AND PROMULGATION.

Statement of Approval, &c. It is directed in the Army Regulations, par. 918, that the reviewing authority "shall state at the end of the proceedings in each case his decision and order thereon;" but no form for the statement of the action of such authority is prescribed in the military code.² Usage, however, has indicated a form for the purpose which is in general substantially followed. This form, (given in the Appendix,) consists of

1. See Chapter XXI—"Principles governing the imposing of discretionary sentences." In a case in G. C. M. O. 103, Hdqrs. of Army, 1882, in which the court had added to its sentence the following—"The court is thus lenient in view of faithful service before and after desertion and the good character of the accused," it was remarked as follows by General Sheridan: "The Lieutenant General is of opinion that the better practice is for a court-martial to award punishment appropriate to the offence established, leaving it to the reviewing authority, in the exercise of his vested powers, to take into consideration previous good character."

2. See *Vanderheyden v. Young*, 11 Johns. 150.

al statement, (with a proper heading, designating the
ters, &c., place and date,) to the effect that the proceed-
lings and sentence in the case of—(naming the accused)—
oved or disapproved, in whole or in part; or that the pro-
and findings are approved in whole or in part, and the
punishment or punishments, is or are remitted, com-
r mitigated, as the case may be; with a direction as to
osition of the prisoner in case of conviction, designa-
lace of confinement if imprisonment be adjudged, &c.
e sentence is one required to be executed at once in con-
with the approval, as is usual in a case of a reprimand,
l administering of the reprimand is added. The state-
hich, where no more cases are to be tried, generally con-
ith an order dissolving the court,) is subscribed by the
g officer in his official capacity.

the sentence is one requiring the action of the President,
superior,) the statement, after the formal approval,
nd the proceedings are hereby forwarded for the action
resident,' &c., or in terms to such effect.

Order of Suspension." Where the action authorized by
is resorted to, the statement, after the approval, proceeds
at is referred to in the Article as the "order of suspen-
hich is simply a declaration to the effect that the execution
ntence is suspended until the pleasure of the President
known, and that the proceedings are accordingly trans-
him for his action, under the Article.

Order of Confirmation, &c. The action of the Presi-
superior commander,) as confirming authority, is simply
statement to the effect that the sentence in the case is
l and will be executed; or that it is disapproved, remitted,
anner specified, commuted or mitigated, as the case may
atement being authenticated by the proper official signa-
s above remarked, the action, here, of the President may
e attested by the Secretary of War: it is the present
however, for the President to subscribe the same in

Action to be Attached to Record. The action of the final reviewing officer is properly written upon a blank page at the end of the record or a sheet attached thereto, below or after the sentence, adjournment, or other final proceeding of the court in the case.¹ The action of the President, &c., if any, is properly written below or after that of the original reviewer.

Accompanying Remarks. To the *formal* action or order thus indicated, the commander or President may, if he thinks proper, add such reflections upon the proceedings or conclusions of the court, the conduct of the prosecution or defence, the makeup of the record, &c., as the facts may warrant. Such comments have the more frequently been resorted to where the finding, sentence, &c., has been in whole or in part *disapproved*: the same, however, have been not unusual where it has upon the whole been deemed expedient that the proceedings or sentence should be improved. In some instances the remarks have taken the form of an emphatic stricture or censure. Thus courts have been severely criticised for acquitting where, in the opinion of the reviewing officer, the testimony called for a conviction;² for imposing sentences regarded by him as inadequate to the offences found;³ findings held by him to be unwarranted by the proof;⁴ for error in admitting or rejecting evidence;⁵ for ignorance or neglect in

1. It is to be noted that the action taken upon the proceedings of inferior courts is often less detailed than here described, consisting sometimes in the mere signing, by the regimental, post, &c., commander, of the single word "*Approved*," written at the foot or in the margin of the record. Usually, however—and more properly—a formula, similar to that employed for the proceedings of general courts, but briefer and simpler, is adopted.

2. See G. O. 81 of 1822; Do. 23 of 1824; Do. 4 of 1843; Do. 2 of 1844; Do. 6 of 1858; Do. 250, 385, of 1863; Do. 74, Army of the Potomac, 1862; G. C. M. O. 112, Dept. of the East, 1870.

3. See G. O. 64, 68, of 1843; Do. 39 of 1845; G. C. M. O. 88 of 1864; Do. 123 of 1865; G. O. 85, Dept. of the Gulf, 1862; Do. 21, Dept. of the Tenn., 1863; Do. 22, Dept. of the Platte, 1867; G. C. M. O. 50, 80, Dept. of the Mo., 1871; Do. 37 Id., 1875. In G. O. 78, Dept. of So. Ca., 1866, the action of the court is commented upon as inconsistent in its adjusting sentences differing very considerably in severity in cases "entirely similar."

4. See G. O. 81 of 1822; G. C. M. O. 88 of 1864; Do. 123 of 1865.

5. See G. O. 23 of 1824; Do. 4 of 1843; Do. 1 of 1861; Do. 185, Dept. of the Ohio, 1863; Do. 51, Dept. of the East, 1864; G. C. M. O. 11, Army of the Potomac, 1864.

grave irregularities in the proceedings or form of the record for the personal misbehaviour of the members,² &c. The act not only of the accused³ but also of the prosecutor or of the officer preferring the charges has also been reflected upon,⁴ as well as that of superiors of the accused whose acts, deemed illegal or improper, have been regarded as having induced or aggravated offences committed,⁵ or that of other officers implicated with the accused or otherwise culpable.⁶ In rare cases even a subordinate commander who has acted upon the proceedings has been

See G. O. 185, Dept. of the Ohio, 1863; Do. 64, 68, Id., 1864; Do. 9, Northern Dept., 1864; Do. 51, Dept. of the East, 1864; Do. 1, Dept. of the South, 1864; Do. 4, Dept. of N. Mexico, 1864; Do. 1, Twenty Fifth Army Corps, 1865; Do. 25, Dept. of So. Ca., 1866; Do. 5, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1867; Do. 33, Dept. of Arizona, 1871; Do. 8, Id., 1876; G. C. M. O. 8, Dept. of Miss., 1865. In G. O. 64, Dept. of the Ohio, 1864, Gen. Schofield, in ordering that the members of the court judge advocate of a certain court, (whose neglect and carelessness had been exceptional,) "be and they are hereby reprimanded," said:—"The Asst. Adjt. Gen. of the Department is hereby cautioned against putting any officer of this court on any important court-martial duty. Of the entire number of cases tried by this court, at least one-tenth have been disapproved for fatal irregularities."

In G. C. M. O. 123 of 1865, the Secretary of War, in commenting on the findings as not in conformity with the evidence, and upon the sentence as inadequate, adds:—"The reviewing officer also reports that the members of the court were guilty of conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline in drinking with the accused at various times, and holding private conversations with his counsel, and of other irregularities," and he thereupon proceeds to summarily *dismiss* all the members of the court, as well as the accused, from the service.

In a recent G. C. M. O., Dept. of Dakota, (134 of 1884,) Gen. Crook reflects severely upon an accused officer for taking advantage of the privilege allowed to a person on trial, by assailing and insulting his prior officer both in his cross-examination of the latter as a witness in his statement to the court.

In reviewing a case in G. O. 86, Dept. of the Mo., 1867, Gen. Crook remarks, generally:—"There being no evidence shown by the record to sustain any one of the charges or specifications, the case has appeared of a malicious prosecution to gratify personal resentment. To refer accusations which cannot be maintained is highly injurious to the service and reflects discredit upon those who prefer them; and if at trial the charges are found to be groundless, the officer preferring them should be held accountable, and be tried himself for preferring malicious charges." And see G. O. 42 of 1851; Do. 239 of 1864; Do. 1, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1867.

See G. O. 62 of 1863; Do. 22, Dept. of Dakota, 1868; Do. 25, Id., 1868; G. C. M. O. 5, 38, Dept. of Texas, 1873; Do. 43, Id., 1873.

G. O. 39, 41, 46, of 1835.

censured.¹ Observations, suggested by the evidence, upon matters affecting discipline or other interest of the service, have = times also been promulgated.*

In this connection, it may be said that where the subject of unfavorable criticism is an error capable of being corrected, the return of the proceedings to the court for the purpose is but just to the court that this course should first be pursued. Further, the reviewing authority, if he deems it his duty to indulge in reflections such as above instanced, should in general where practicable, confine himself to comments upon facts, and rather than resort to direct strictures upon individuals, should prefer or cause to be preferred against them formal charges. Such strictures, however, are in some cases quite legitimate, and cannot be avoided: in such cases if the party reflected upon demands a trial by court-martial for the misconduct imputed, his application cannot in general fairly be denied.

Order of Promulgation. This is the formal written or printed General, (or Special,) Order, in and by which, by the invariable usage of the service, the final reviewing authority publicly announces his action, (and that of a previous reviewing officer, if any,) upon the proceedings of the court in a case tried. It consists simply of a re-statement of such action, (with the accompanying remarks, if any,) as originally written and subscribed in or upon the record as above indicated, preceded by the detail

1. In G. O. 25, Dept. of So. Ca., 1866, Gen. Sickles, in remarking upon fatal errors appearing in a considerable number of cases, censured the original reviewing officer—a District commander—for repeatedly permitting records containing errors to pass through his hands, without having them returned for correction to the court, and thereupon proceeds to revoke an existing order by which the District commander had been designated as a "separate brigade,"—thus divesting the commander of the power to convene general courts.

2. See cases in James, 500, 501, 694, 831, 832. And see unfavorable comments on the course of official business, in Gen. Talcott's case, G. O. 36 of 1851. In G. O. 43, Dept. of Cal., 1867, Gen. McDowell, observing that several soldiers belonging to the same command, pleading guilty to the charge of desertion, "allege, as the reason for committing it, that the comfort of the soldier is neglected, that the food is insufficient, that an undue proportion of the ration is sold for the purpose of forming a company fund, and that reports that the rations were made away with were not attended to,"—orders that the District commander "will immediately investigate the matters contained in these allegations, and will report the result to these Headquarters."

and sufficient to identify the particular case, *viz.* a designation of the court, and a recital of the charges and specifications,¹ pleas, (including special pleas,) the findings, and the sentence of conviction; the whole being headed by the name of headquarters from which issued, the date of issue, (which is preferably be identical with that of the original action,*) the number of the Order in the current series. Where the Order has been returned to the court for correction, this fact, together with the procedure upon the revision, is sometimes set forth, but such mention is in general neither necessary nor desirable.³

The Order is mainly useful—1st, as a publication to the Army of the result of the trial, and of the opinion of the commanding officer, and, (where his action is required,) that of the President, of the proceedings; 2d, as forming a permanent and concise memorandum of the more material particulars of the case for general reference and use in evidence; 3d, as constituting an actual or presumptive *legal notice* to the accused of the sentence or other conclusion of the court, and of the effect of the appeal, disapproval, remission or mitigation by the reviewing authority. As already observed, upon the subject of the execution of punishments, the day upon which the order promulgating the sentence is published to the command, or served upon the accused and made known to the accused in person,⁴ is that on and from which a sentence of dismissal, disqualification, suspension, confinement, fines, or reduction, in general takes effect, and the rights of the party to pay, rank, &c., are divested or affected. 4th. It is added that in cases in which imprisonment is adjudged, the date of the Order of promulgation fixes, as heretofore noticed,⁵ the date at and from which the term of the imprisonment begins to be executed in law.

The specifications are sometimes omitted, but should always preferably be inserted except where they are too numerous or extended, or where the language is grossly indecent or matter otherwise improper to be published.

That the dates should be the same is now directed in G. O. 103 of

REGIST, 354-

not only where the accused is sick, a prisoner, &c., and cannot be present at the publication of the Order to the command, but in *all cases*, the Order should be furnished to him personally.

Chapter XX—"Imprisonment."

The Order, however, though thus important, is not essential to the execution of the sentence or otherwise, and may be wholly dispensed with.¹ This for the reason that the same is not an original proceeding and contains no original matter, its details being merely *copies* of the original particulars contained in the record and of the action taken upon the case. Not being original it is not signed as such; the signature of an assistant adjutant general or other staff officer, sometimes appended to it, being simply for the purpose of authenticating it as a true copy.

As a form merely of publication, the Order, if found to contain an error or errors, may be withdrawn or cancelled and a new and correct form substituted, or it may be amended by a supplementary Order specifying and rectifying the mistake.

Special Action in case of Acquittal. In such a case, if there is likely to be any material delay in the issuing of the Order promulgating the proceedings, the commander properly may, and in practice not unfrequently does, direct that the accused be forthwith released from arrest and restored to duty. In the absence of such anticipatory action, an officer or soldier fully exculpated on his trial might be held in underserved restraint, and subjected to unnecessary suffering or humiliation, for a considerable period, while awaiting the publication of the formal Order.²

IX. DISPOSITION OF RECORDS.

Transmittal of Records of General Courts. Par. 919 of the Army Regulations directs that—"Proceedings of general courts-martial will be transmitted by the commander who appoints the court * * * directly to the Judge Advocate General." The last duty of the military reviewing officer, after fully

1. See DIGEST, 354. In any event—whether or whenever the proceedings are formally promulgated—the accused should be notified of the result as promptly as is reasonably practicable. Note remarks of Samuel Warren, (Letter to the Queen on a late Court-Martial, p. 254-5,) on the cruelty of keeping an accused long in ignorance of the result of his trial.

2. In an Act of the Confederate States Congress, of June 14, 1864, relating to the proceedings of military courts, it is provided that, in cases of acquittals, "*the finding of the court shall be announced immediately, and the person so tried and acquitted, if a soldier, shall be released from arrest and returned to duty; and if other than a soldier, discharged from custody, without awaiting the examination or report of the reviewing officer.*"

ing upon the proceedings of a general court, thus is to forward record to Washington, to the Judge Advocate General of the Army, who is made by statute the legal recipient and custodian of such proceedings. The duty of the commander is the same whether the case is one in which his approval or other action is required, or one in which action by the President is still required. Transmittal is by mail or express: in cases of unusual public importance the records have sometimes been conveyed by the Judge Advocate of the court or other officer detailed for the purpose. A copy of the order of promulgation, if any, is properly submitted with the record.

Disposition of Records of Inferior Courts. It was provided by the Act of March 3, 1877, that all records of inferior courts-martial, after being duly acted upon by the proper commanders, should in future "be retained and filed in the Judge Advocate's office at the Headquarters of the Department Commander, in whose department the courts were held, for two years, the end of which time they may be destroyed." Under this rule this class of records have at the proper time been destroyed.

CHAPTER XXII.

INFERIOR COURTS-MARTIAL, AND MILITARY BOARDS.

INFERIOR COURTS-MARTIAL.

There are known to our law two species of Inferior Courts-Martial, which will be considered in this Chapter under the two respectively of—

- I. Regimental and Garrison Courts-Martial.
- II. The Field Officer's Court.

I. REGIMENTAL AND GARRISON COURTS-MARTIAL.

The Law on the Subject. Courts for inferior commands have been authorized by our military codes from the beginning. The substance of the earlier Articles still remains; the variations which the law has undergone will be noticed as we proceed. The existing statutory law relating to these courts and to the trial of action upon their sentences is contained in Arts. 81 to 83, 84, Art. 104, Art. 109, and Art. 112—as follows:

“ART. 81. *Every officer commanding a regiment or corps shall be subject to the provisions of article eighty, be competent to appoint for his own regiment or corps, courts-martial, consisting of three officers, to try offences not capital.*

“ART. 82. *Every officer commanding a garrison, fort, or place, where the troops consist of different corps, shall, subject to the provisions of article eighty, be competent to appoint, for the garrison or other place, courts-martial, consisting of three officers to try offences not capital.*

“ART. 83. *Regimental and garrison courts-martial, and officers detailed to try offenders, shall not have power to try cases or commissioned officers, or to inflict a fine exceeding one month's pay, or to imprison or put to hard labor any non-commissioned officer or soldier for a longer time than one month.*”

1. As to the British courts-martial, other than General, viz. the District, Regimental, Field General, and Summary—see Army Act, 48, 49, 55.

ART. 84. *The oath administered to the members of a general court-martial 'shall also be taken by all members of regimental and garrison courts-martial.'* * * *

ART. 104. *No sentence of a court-martial shall be carried into execution until the whole proceedings shall have been approved by the officer ordering the court, or by the officer commanding for the time being.*

ART. 109. *All sentences of a court-martial may be confirmed and carried into execution by the officer ordering the court, or by the officer commanding for the time being.* * * *

ART. 112. * * * *Every officer commanding a regiment or garrison in which a regimental or garrison court-martial may be held, shall have power to pardon or mitigate any punishment which the court may adjudge."*

The province and function of a Regimental Court, when acting as a court but in quite a distinct capacity under the provisions of Art. 30, will be separately considered in Chapter XXV. The law of Regimental and Garrison Courts-Martial, as now published, will be presented under the following heads: 1. Constitution; 2. Composition; 3. Jurisdiction; 4. Power of Punishment; 5. Procedure; 6. Action upon the Proceedings; 7. Distribution of Records.

Constitution. Arts. 81 and 82 authorize the convening of inferior courts by three sorts of commanding officers:—Commanders of Regiments; Commanders of "Corps;" and Commanders of garrisons, forts, or other places, "where the troops consist of different corps." The courts convened under Art. 81 are commonly distinguished as "Regimental," and those convened under Art. 82 as "Garrison" courts: regimental courts proper, however, are those ordered by the first-named commanders only.

Commanders of regiments. The "officer commanding a regiment," referred to in Art. 81, is the colonel, or other officer in command of the same whatever be his rank. But he must be the actual command of the regiment *as such*, and competent to issue orders to it as a body. The command must subsist as a regimental organization; if companies are detached so that no officer properly commands it as a regiment, a *regimental* court cannot legally be ordered in or for it under Art. 81.

Commanders of corps. The term "corps" may have different significations in different connections. As employed in Art. 81, it is deemed to signify a separate integral portion of the army (other than a regiment,) "organized by law with a head and members." It must be complete within and of itself, not a mere aggregation made up of detachments from different commands temporarily acting together.² Further, it must contain not only a sufficient number of soldiers enlisted for or incorporated in it, but also officers commissioned in or for it as such who may compose the court contemplated by the Article. The Corps of Engineers, (including an engineer battalion,) as organized under Secs. 1094 and 1151, Rev. Sts., completely answers this description, and the Chief of Engineers is authorized to convene a court as a commander of a "corps" in the sense of the Article. The same has been the case in regard to the Chief of Ordnance, in view of his separate command of officers and enlisted men authorized and organized under Secs. 1094, 1159 and 1162, Rev. Sts. So, the Signal Corps, now constituted, by the Act of June 20, 1878, and other statutes, of both officers and enlisted men under the command of the Signal Officer, is properly such a corps as here contemplated. On the other hand, the Corps of Cadets of the Military Academy is not regarded as a "corps" within the meaning of Art. 81, because it comprises no commissioned officers of the army and no material out of which the commandant could compose a court for it as a "corps." The Superintendent of course, as commander of the post of West Point, where the force always consists of "different corps" in the sense of Art. 82, may convene general courts for the trial as well of cadets as of the enlisted men on duty at the post.

"Corps" courts, as such, even when clearly authorized, are rarely resorted to in our practice; general courts, or—where convenient—garrison courts, being commonly employed in their stead.

Commanders of garrisons, &c. While Art. 81 authorizes courts for commands consisting of a single element, *i. e.* consisting only of officers and men of one and the same organization,

1. The Article distinguishes it in terms from a regiment. So it is to be regarded as distinguished from any component of a regiment, as a multiple of regiments—as a company or a brigade.

2. See Scott's Military Dictionary—"Corps."

3. DIGEST, 63.

provides for the assembling of courts in commands of a *composite* character. The one Article is thus the complement of the other.

Construction of Art. 82—"Where the troops consist of different corps." The first point to be noticed in construing this Article is that the term of description—"where the troops consist of different corps," is, according to the weight of authority, to be understood as general, *viz.* as applying not merely to words "other place," but also to the words "garrison" and "fort."

The original British article relating to inferior courts for mixed commands would seem to have distinguished between commands of 'districts, garrisons, forts, castles, or barracks,' *as such*, as a class, and commanders of 'towns or places where the force made up of detachments,' as a separate class.¹ The context and punctuation, however, of our own earliest Articles of 1775 and 1776, favor the view that the limitation—"where the troops consist of different corps" was intended to apply alike to all the commands previously specified;² and though this punctuation was modified—by the dropping of the comma before "where"—in the Articles of 1786 and 1806, it has been revived in the code of 1874. Moreover, that the limitation was a *general* one was clearly the construction of Major General Scott in the General Order presently to be cited,³ and was evidently also that of O'Brien:⁴ and, further, it was expressly ruled to the same effect by Judge Advocate General Holt,⁵ and this view is now uniformly acted upon in practice. If it be objected that this interpretation would preclude from convening a court-martial the commander of a garrison whose force was wholly made up from a single corps or arm of the service, it may be answered that it can scarcely happen that a properly constituted garrison command will be so entirely single; one or two representatives at least of some corps other than that composing the body of the command being almost invariably present with it.⁶

¹ See Samuel, 622.

² And the same is to be inferred from the British article of 1765 from which our own was immediately derived. See Appendix.

³ G. O. 5 of 1843, cited *post*.

⁴ Page 288.

⁵ DIGEST, 64. And see G. O. 13, Fourth Mil. Dist., 1867, cited *post*.

⁶ See *post*—"Meaning of 'different corps.'"

Meaning of "other place." As to the term "other" this, it is to be observed, is a designation of the most extensive character, including any camp, post, barracks, rendezvous, hospital, arsenal, transport, or other situation, locality whatever at which there may be stationed, or temporarily remain, a command of the nature contemplated Article.¹

Meaning of "different corps." In the original art 1775 the language employed was: "where the troops under command consist of detachments from different regiments or independent companies." The term "*different corps*" thus appear to have reference primarily to detachments of different arms or branches of the military force serving together as infantry and cavalry, artillery and engineers, &c. By this construction, however, already indicated as announced from Headquarters in 1843, a significance was attributed to the definition, "where the troops consist of different corps," which considerably enlarged their purport and application. This was to fix upon the command the character of one consisting of different corps," and to authorize its commander to convene a court-martial. In relation to this, it is sufficient that there should be on duty with the command, as a part of it, a *single* representative only—officer or enlisted man—of some arm or component of the military establishment other than that one of which the command, with exception, is made up.² Thus, if the body of the command consists of a regiment of infantry, it will be sufficient for the purpose indicated if there be stationed or serving with it an officer or enlisted man of a cavalry or artillery regiment, or of any branch of the staff of the army, as, for example, a medical officer or hospital steward, officer or non-commissioned officer of the quartermaster or subsistence department, chaplain, &c.³

1. DIGEST, 64.

2. This construction, as expressed by General Scott in G. O. 1843, was as follows:—"In order that the practice throughout the army under the second sentence of the 66th Article of war, may be uniform, it is published for the information of all, as the opinion at General Headquarters, that the presence on duty of an ordnance sergeant, like that of an officer or man of any other different corps, at any military garrisoned with troops, gives to its commanding officer the legal authority to appoint garrison courts-martial for the trial of petty military offenses committed at the same."

3. DIGEST, 64. And see O'Brien, 288; Coppée, 41. In G.

Rank of the commander, in general. As observed of the commander of the "regiment" or "corps" specified in Art. 81, is not necessary that the commander of the "garrison, fort, or other place," should be of the degree of a *field officer*. To empower and enable him to assemble the court he need only be a *field officer*, with *four* officers under him eligible to serve as members and judge advocate.

The commander as accuser, &c. Inasmuch as the provision of Art. 72, in regard to the contingency of the convening commander being "accuser or prosecutor," does not apply to inferior courts or cases of enlisted men, the commander of a regiment, garrison, &c., is authorized to convene a court-martial under Art. 81 or 82, although he may be the actual accuser or prosecutor of the party, or a party, to be tried. It is of course desirable that the officer constituting the court should not be the person from whom the charges emanate or who is the prosecuting witness in the case; but the requirements of discipline may sometimes necessitate that the two characters be united where the command is a small one or the exigencies of war enjoin immediate action.¹

Form of convening order. Until recently no judge advocate was detailed with regimental or garrison courts, but the senior member acted as *recorder*.² Now, in view of the comprehensive provision of Art. 74 of the present code, a judge advocate may be, and in practice is, appointed in the convening order precisely as in an order convening a *general* court.³

In view of the injunction, applicable to both species of courts, of Art. 94, the commander may properly convey in the order a specific authority to "sit without regard to hours:" occasion for

Fourth Mil. Dist., 1867, Gen. Ord states the law as follows:—"At posts here, in addition to the troops, forming the chief part of the garrison, there is on duty an officer or enlisted man of the Ordnance, Medical or other Corps, as a hospital steward or ordnance sergeant, the Commanding Officer can, if a sufficient number of officers are present, constitute a Garrison Court-Martial and act on the proceedings, in accordance with the 66th and 89th" (now 82d, 109th and 112th) "Articles of War."

¹ DIGEST, 56.

² O'Brien, 289; De Hart, 129; Maccomb, 86; G. O. 49 of 1871.

³ DIGEST, 296; G. O. 15 of 1880, incorporated in 1892, Army Regs.

adding this, however, is much less frequently presented than in orders convening general courts.

In time of *war*, in view of the provisions of Art. 80, a statement is sometimes appended in an order detailing a regimental or garrison court to the effect that the same is resorted to for the reason that it is impracticable to convene a field officers' court. Such statement, however, is not an essential; and, where not employed, the law would presume from the face of the order that the court was authorized and legal.¹

Composition—"Of three officers." By the codes of 1775 and 1776 it was directed that regimental, &c., courts should consist of not less than five members where that number could be conveniently assembled, otherwise of three. The present Arts. 81 and 82 provide that such courts shall consist "of three officers." *Officers* is of course identical with *commissioned officers*,² and—subject to the provision of Art. 78³—means of course officers of the *army*.

Detailing of himself by the commander. Of the three members of the court, the commander is not authorized to detail himself as one.⁴ A prohibition substantially to this effect—that the commander should not act as a member—was indeed contained in the earliest Articles:⁵ that the same is not repeated in the later codes is doubtless owing to the fact that the principle that the officer who constitutes the court and executes the sentence should not also assume to act as judge upon the trial is too firmly established to require to be reasserted in terms. Thus, if beside the commander, there are not present in the command three other officers available for detail as members, (together with one eligible as judge advocate,) no court can be convened. The

1. DIGEST, 63.

2. Sec. 1342, Rev. Sts. That the members must also have military rank, and that professors (and cadets) of the Military Academy are not competent to act as members of the inferior courts, see I Opins. At. Gen. 469; II Id. 251; VI Id. 328, 330; also Chapter VII, *ante*, on the Composition of General Courts.

3. See Chapter VII, *ante*, "Regulars and Marines associated."

4. DIGEST, 64.

5. It occurs in the Articles of 1775 and 1776, in the Massachusetts Articles of '75, and in the British Articles of '65 from which they are derived. See Appendix.

ander must wait until he is supplied with the requisite number of officers, or the case be referred for trial to a general

rank of the detail. As to the rank of the members it is said that the same is not regulated by any statute. It is recommended by some authorities¹ that the detail consist of a captain and two subalterns: in the smaller companies however the court must often be composed of three lieutenants.

Jurisdiction—Prohibitions as to exercise of. Articles expressly preclude regimental and garrison courts-martial taking cognizance of *capital* offences or offences of *commissioned officers*.²

A capital offence, as has been remarked in a previous Chapter,³ is only one expressly required to be visited with the death penalty, but one *punishable* with death at the discretion of the court.

An inferior court, therefore, cannot legally assume jurisdiction of any of the offences, however slight they may be, which are specified in Arts. 21 to 23, 39, 41 to 46 and 56, because they are therein made punishable "by death or such other punishment as a court-martial may direct."⁴ But an offence made punishable simply "as a court-martial may direct" is not a capital offence for the reason that, by Art. 96, the punishment of death cannot legally be imposed unless expressly designated as an authorized penalty: such an offence is therefore not within the jurisdiction.

There may be distinguished a *third* class of offences which, though not capital, are not triable by inferior courts. These are

¹ Dyer, 92; Tytler, 177; Macomb, 85.

² In the code of 1795 *officers* were expressly made subject to the jurisdiction of a regimental court, by Arts. XVII, XIX, XXIII and XXIV, Additional Article 16. See Appendix.

³ Chapter XVIII—"Testimony by Deposition;" Chapter XX—"Habeas Corpus."

⁴ Macomb, 86; De Hart, 62, 63; Benét, 41, 42; DIGEST, 65; G. O. 852; Do. 21 of 1858; Do. 18 of 1859; Do. 9, Dept. of Utah, In Capt. Howe's Case, (G. O. 10 of 1857,) the attempting to a garrison court to assume jurisdiction of a violation of the 21st Article was treated as a military offence; the officer being legally charged with and convicted of the same.

the civil crimes which, when committed by soldiers in war, are, by Art. 58, made exclusively punishable by "garrison court-martial."

Jurisdiction of the different inferior courts distinguished. It is further to be noted that a "regimental" may adjudicate only the cases of soldiers of the specific regiment or corps; the 81st Article authorizing the commander to appoint courts for his own regiment or corps alone:¹ a garrison court, on the other hand, may try enlisted men belonging to any one of the detachments or contingents of which the command is made up.

Extent of jurisdiction in general—Cognizance of offences. Except as thus limited by the Articles, the jurisdiction of the inferior courts is coextensive as to all offences committed by soldiers with that of the superior court-martial. In other words, a regimental or garrison court is *legally authorized* to take cognizance of all military offences of soldiers, *however grave* provided the same are not made punishable capitally, or exclusively by a general court. But while inferior courts are thus empowered to pass upon many cases of serious offences, their authority to do so is so inadequate to the proper disposition of such cases in the event of conviction that they should not be called upon to try them if it can be avoided, but the same should be reserved for the action of general courts.³ Thus a case of larceny from a soldier or officer should properly be referred to the higher court. And so of aggravated instances of drunkenness on duty, of absence without leave, or of other breach of military discipline.⁴ But if a case of more than ordinary gravity has, by competent authority, been duly referred for trial to an inferior court, it cannot de-

1. See Maltby, 19.

2. Except that, according to par. 913, Army Regs., "ordnance sergeants, commissary sergeants, and hospital stewards," may not be tried by regimental or garrison courts unless by special permission of the department commander." [In this connection see Chapter III, on Regulations—"They must not legislate."]

3. DIGEST, 66-67. By the original articles of 1775 and 1776, the regimental, &c., courts were in terms declared to be instituted for the trial and punishment of "small offences."

4. DIGEST, 66. It need hardly be added that *desertion*, though legally cognizable by an inferior court in time of *peace*, (not being then a capital offence,) could only adequately be punished, and therefore properly passed upon, by a general court.

d with the trial on the mere ground that its power of punishment is not considered adequate to the offence charged.¹ Indeed the offence as developed by the testimony turns out to be a considerably more serious one than the commander probably have anticipated, the court may well suspend proceedings and report the facts to him, with the suggestion whether, in the interests of discipline, the case might not preferably be disposed of by a general court.²

ected by Arts. 102 and 103. It has been noted in a Chapter³ that the provision of Art. 102, that "no person shall be tried a second time for the same offence," is of general application, and precludes inferior equally with general courts having cognizance of cases once duly tried.

On the other hand it has been remarked that the jurisdiction of these courts is not restrained by the limitation of Art. 103, being confined in terms to "general" courts. But designedly inferior courts especially are for a summary administration of justice, it will be of the rarest occurrence that so long a period of years will have elapsed before a case suitable for trial by these tribunals is brought before it.

r of Punishment. Art. 83 declares that inferior courts *do not have power * * * to inflict a fine exceeding one month's pay, or to imprison or put to hard labor any non-commissioned officer or soldier for a longer time than one month.*"⁴

"month," here, measured as it is by the month's pay of the soldier, has practically the same meaning as forfeiture. A fine, in the sense in which the word is employed in the civil procedure, is never adjudged by a regimental or garrison court; the only mulct imposed under this provision of the Article best invariably a forfeiture of a month's pay, or of a certain number of dollars or pay of a lesser amount.

The limit of the so-called "fine" or forfeiture, being thus fixed, it can of course legally be exceeded. Where the sentence, in the event of a conviction, will probably include a forfeiture of a

¹EST, 67.

²O'Brien, 289.

³Chapter XVI.

⁴"month," where used in the Articles, means a month—see Chapter XX, *ante*.

larger amount than a month's pay, as where the accused is charged with the loss or destruction of public property of a greater value, the case should properly be referred for trial to a general court.¹

Should the accused be entitled to any monthly *pecuniary* allowance in addition to pay, to sentence him to forfeit his *pay and allowances* for a month would be an exceeding of the power of punishment accorded by the Article and therefore illegal.²

An exceeding, it may be added, of the scope of the power cannot be made good by any action of the reviewing commander. Thus, if the court has forfeited an amount greater than a month's pay, the commander cannot give effect to the sentence by disapproving, mitigating, or remitting the same as to the excess, but the sentence is wholly illegal and void.³

Imprisonment and hard labor. In regard to these further specified punishments,⁴ it need only be repeated that the court should clearly observe the limitation as to quantity prescribed by the Article. Thus where a sentence, "to be confined till the expiration of his term of service," was adjudged by an inferior court in a case in which it did not appear from the evidence or otherwise that the term of the soldier would certainly expire within a month from its approval, it was held by the Judge Advocate General that the sentence should be disapproved unless corrected upon a reassembling of the court.⁵

The imprisonment here authorized is commonly executed by confinement in the guard-house. "Hard labor," as a distinct penalty, is now rarely adjudged by inferior courts, being mostly reserved for cases of persons sentenced by general courts to confinement in a Military Prison.

The measure of punishment in general. While a soldier may be sentenced by an inferior court *both* to forfeit a month's pay *and* be confined (or put to hard labor) for a month, the *meas-*

1. See De Hart, 60. But as to the "stoppage" required by Art. 17, see Chapter XXV.

2. DIGEST, 66.

3. Id. In such a case the proceedings should properly be returned to the court for a correction of the sentence.

4. That they are distinct punishments, see Chapter XX—"Confinement at hard labor."

5. DIGEST, 66.

f punishment imposed *at one trial* cannot legally exceed that ribed by Art. 83, however many or grave may be the offences ged and of which the accused is convicted. Upon different , however, by the same court or different courts, and by ent sentences thereby adjudged, a soldier may legally be cted to forfeitures and confinements of which the total shall derably exceed the month's limit.¹

ie provision as to punishments not exclusive. The le, in specifying that inferior courts shall inflict only a cer- quantity of three designated punishments, does not neces- exclude, and is not in practice construed as excluding, such s from imposing other punishments suitable for enlisted ' Thus *reduction to the ranks* may be and often is adjudged ese courts to non-commissioned officers, either as the sole lty or in addition to one or more of the penalties named in rticle. Where indeed imprisonment or hard labor is awarded non-commissioned officer, reduction is generally and prop- osed with it, it being deemed prejudicial to discipline in enlisted man should be subjected to a degrading punish- while still holding the office and wearing the chevrons of a ant or corporal.³

itary confinement, or confinement on bread and water diet,⁴ also, (subject to the limitation of Art. 83, as to time,) legally ad sometimes, though not often, is adjudged by inferior s. These courts have in some cases also, for petty offences, sed such corporal punishments as carrying logs, marching a loaded knapsack, &c., but this class of punishments, not ; recognized in par. 896 of the Army Regulations, has be- in great measure disused at least for time of peace.⁵ A nce 'to be drummed out of the service,'—an ignominious of discharge,—if imposed by an inferior court, would be l,⁶ general courts only being authorized, (by Art. 4,) to dis- e soldiers by sentence.

G. O. 18 of 1859; DIGEST, 66.

DIGEST, 66.

Chapter XX—"Reduction."

See pars. 896, 898, Army Regs.

See Chapter XX—"Restrictions by military usage."

G. O. 33; Dept. of the Mo., 1861.

Procedure. The procedure of a regimental or garrison court is in most respects substantially identical with that of a general court-martial.¹ The majority of the Articles of war which relate to the conduct of a military trial refer in terms to "courts-martial" without distinction and are thus applicable to the inferior equally as to the superior courts. Such, for example, are Art. 84, prescribing the oath to be taken by the members; Art. 86, providing for the punishment of contempts; Art. 88, recognizing the right of challenge; Art. 91, relating to the use in evidence of depositions; Art. 93, authorizing the granting by the court of continuances; Art. 94, fixing the hours of session; Art. 95, directing as to the order of voting by the members. As to matters not regulated by statute, the rules of the procedure and practice of general courts, as fixed by the common law of the service, are ordinarily applicable to, and to be followed by, inferior courts. Thus it is the duty of the senior member of the court to preside, preserve order, &c.; the action or judgment of the court is determined by the vote of the majority;² the function and authority of the judge advocate are as set forth in the Chapter treating of that official; the rights of the accused are similar to those heretofore indicated as customarily accorded him. So, the record of a regimental or garrison court is made up and authenticated in substantially the same manner and form as that of a general court,³ and, when completed, is transmitted to the convening authority.⁴ Such distinction indeed as exists between the procedure of the inferior and that of the superior court consists mainly in the fact that the former is in general simpler and more summary than the latter.

Action upon the Proceedings—In general. Art. 66 of the code of 1806, following in substance the earlier forms, provided that the officers convening regimental and garrison courts should "decide upon their sentences." A similar provision is

1. See O'Brien, 289; Coppée, 40.

2. In the original Article of 1775 and 1776, it is declared in express terms that regimental courts shall "give judgment," and "determine upon the sentence, by the majority of voices."

3. Par. 914, Army Regs., being expressed in general terms, governs as to the form of authentication of both kinds of courts. The statement sometimes made, (see Coppée, 42,) that the members *all* sign, is not correct.

4. According to the general rule laid down in par. 918.

embraced in the present Arts. 81 and 82, but in Art. 104 it is declared—generally—that “no sentence of a court-martial shall be carried into execution” until the approval of the proceedings by the officer ordering the court,” (or “the officer commanding for the time being;”) and in Art. 109—also generally—that sentences of a court-martial may be confirmed and carried into execution” by such officer, &c. The proceedings and sentences, therefore, of the courts authorized by Arts. 81 and 82 are to be reviewed and acted upon by the commanders indicated therein respectively. The principles set forth in Chapter XXI, governing the subject of the authority, discretion, and duty of the Reviewing Officer, will apply in general to the action of these commanders.

Form of action. Par. 918 of the Army Regulations, referring to courts-martial in general, declares that the reviewing officer “shall state at the end of the proceedings in each case his opinion and orders therein.”² The form of this action, as substituted in or upon the proceedings of an inferior court, is substantially the same as that adopted in expressing the action taken in a case tried by a general court, only that it is usually briefer and simpler. Some commanders, in approving the sentence, content themselves with writing and subscribing the single word “proved,” at the end of the record.

Power to return proceedings for correction. As in the instance of a case tried by a general court-martial, the convening authority, (or his successor in command,) is empowered to return proceedings to the court, (reassembling it if necessary,) for opinion and the correction of errors.³

Power of pardon and mitigation. Art. 112, in empowering officers authorized to act upon the sentences of *general* courts

As to the meaning of this term, and the construction, generally, of Arts. 104 and 109, see Chapter XXI.

In Lt. Col. Robertson's case, one of the offences with which he was charged, and of which he was convicted, was—“permitting sentences of regimental courts to be carried into execution, without affixing approval to the proceedings of the same.” James, 828; Simons, § 718.

Par. 923, Army Regs., is expressed in general terms, thus embracing all courts-martial. See this subject as treated in Chapter XXI.

to remit, &c., the same, adds:—"Every officer commanding a regiment or garrison in which a regimental or garrison court-martial may be held, shall have power to pardon or mitigate any punishment which such court may adjudge."¹ What has been said, therefore, in regard to the nature and extent of this power, Chapter XXI will in general apply here. It may be repeated that, in the opinion of the author, power is given by this Article, not only for the pardon or mitigation of a punishment or punishments by the officer in command at the time of and in connection with the original action and approval, but also for the pardon or remission of the same by such officer or his successor, at any time thereafter before the sentence is fully executed. The beneficial nature of the provision justifies a liberal construction, and the practice has sustained this interpretation.

Promulgation. The proceedings, in our practice, are published by the commanding officer of the regiment, garrison, &c., to the command, in a regimental or post, &c., general order, the form of which follows in substance that of the General Order by which the proceedings of the superior courts are commonly promulgated.

Action not subject to supervision. Arts. 109 and 112 vest, as has been seen, in regimental and garrison commanders the power to confirm and execute, as well as pardon or mitigate, the sentences of the courts ordered by them under Arts. 81 and 82. Upon a familiar principle of interpretation this power is to be regarded as *exclusive*: no superior authority, therefore, can legally reverse or revise their action. The Army Regulations, indeed, of 1863, contained two paragraphs, (numbered 898 and 899,) which declared that such commanders should transmit the proceedings of these courts to the department headquarters "for the supervision of the department commander," and, again, that the latter might in certain cases "suspend" the execution of the sentence. Par. 899, however, which contained the latter provision, was held by Judge Advocate General Holt to be void and inoperative because in conflict with the Articles of war, and this opinion was publicly concurred in by the Secretary of War.² In the latest authorized edition of the Regulations, that of 1880, not only was

1. See par. 924, Army Regs.

2. In G. O. 72 of 1873.

99, but also par. 898 of 1863, wholly omitted; the last apparently as being subject to the same legal objection as the other. In the opinion of the author, the latter regulation was as properly required to be omitted as the former. An army regulation inferior in force to an Act of Congress, and such an Act having been enacted in regimental, &c., commanders the exclusive power to act upon and fully execute the sentences of inferior courts, and action cannot, by an army regulation, be made subject to the revision of superior or other authority. Par. 898 of 1863 was an illegal assumption and of no effect, and has properly been stricken out. Thus, at military law, the action of the commanders authorized to pass upon the proceedings and sentences of the inferior courts is as exclusive and final as is the action of the class of commanders authorized to pass upon the proceedings and sentences of general courts-martial.

Disposition of Records. Par. 918 of the Army Regulations prescribes, generally, that—"the judge advocate shall transmit the proceedings without delay to the officer having authority to con-
firm the sentence." A provision of the Act of March 3, 1877, states that all records of inferior courts shall, "*after having acted upon, be retained and filed in the judge advocate's at the headquarters of the department commander in whose department the courts were held, for two years, at the end of*

An opposite opinion was given in March, 1882, by Judge Advocate General Swaim, which the Secretary of War is understood to have formally approved, but which was never published in General Orders. The General named took the view that the paragraph, (898 of 1863,) was "inadvertently omitted" from the Regulations of 1880, and was to be regarded as still in force; further that the right of the department commander to revise the proceedings of inferior courts was recognized by the provision of the Act of March 3, 1877, (see text, *post*,) relating to the disposition of records of inferior courts. The author does not perceive this position and is unable to concur in this opinion. It has, however, been acted upon in a few cases by department commanders. See G. C. O. 22, Dept. of the Columbia, 1882.

The paragraph in question was construed by Judge Advocate General Swaim, prior to the publication of the Regulations of 1880, as follows:—Under par. 898 it devolves upon a department commander to supervise the proceedings of regimental and garrison courts-martial transmitted to headquarters, and if he discovers any material error, defect, or omission in a record, or in the action taken in the case by the inferior commander, to return the proceedings to the latter; calling his attention to corrections deemed proper to be made." DIGEST, 64. And finally, if any irregularity could, it is believed, legally be given only by *legis*

which time they may be destroyed." This provision was enacted in view of the fact that the Bureau of Military Justice had become gradually burthened with a vast mass of such records, the accumulation of which it was desirable to discontinue. Under this Act, regimental and garrison commanders, after having finally acted upon the proceedings and sentences of the court ordered by them, transmit the records to department headquarters to be disposed of as prescribed.

II. THE FIELD OFFICER'S COURT.

Its Nature in General. This is a distinct species of tribunal from the Regimental or Garrison Court, differing from the latter mainly in that (1) it is authorized only for time of war, and (2) that its sentences are not executed by the simple order of the convening officer but require, to give them effect, the approval of a higher commander. As will be seen, however, it is assimilated to the Regimental Court authorized by Art. 81, being itself a simple form of regimental court provided for periods when a summary disposition of cases of minor offenders is especially called for.¹

The Law on the Subject. This special agency for the administration of military justice was inaugurated during the war by the Act of July 17, 1862, c. 201, s. 7. The provisions of this statute were incorporated in the code of Articles of 1874, and the existing law relating to this court is contained in Arts. 83 and 110, as follows:—

"ART. 80. *In time of war a field officer may be detailed in each regiment, to try soldiers thereof for offences not capital; and no soldier, serving with his regiment, shall be tried by a regimental*

1. Except as to the formality required for the execution of its sentences, this court resembles the "Drum Head," or "Field Court-Martial," formerly known in the English practice: As to the existence and procedure of this summary tribunal, which was held, without regard to the usual forms, in "cases supposed to require an immediate example," see reference in Adye, 97; Mil. Law of Eng., 56; Simmons § 251; How. 235; Id., (P.) 554, 683, 686-7, 797-9; D'Aguilar, 77; Gov. Wall's Case, 28 How. St. T., 151; Picton's Case, 41 Hansard's Debates, (3) 1273. That a resort to a Drum Head Court was considered to be permissible only in an emergency, as during war or on the occasion of mutiny, see case of Col. Allan, convicted of the offence of embezzlement, such a court in cases not justifying it. Hansard, N. S., vol. VIII, p. 1273. Debate in Ho. of Com., 1823.

prison court-martial when a field officer of his regiment may be detailed.

"ART. 83. * * * * * *Field officers detailed to try offenders shall not have power to try capital cases or commissioned officers, or inflict a fine exceeding one month's pay, or to imprison or put to labor any non-commissioned officer or soldier for a longer time than one month.*

'ART. 110. *No sentence of a field officer, detailed to try soldiers of his regiment, shall be carried into execution, until the whole proceedings shall have been approved by the brigade commander, or, in case there be no brigade commander, by the commanding officer of the post.*'

Art. 83, which applies alike to all inferior courts, has been fully considered in the first part of this Chapter, in treating of the Jurisdiction and Power of punishment of Regimental and Garrison Courts.

Constitution of the Court. The Articles are silent as to the officer by whom the Field Officer may be detailed as a court. Following, however, the analogy between this and the Regimental Court, it would seem clear, as held by Judge Advocate General Holt,¹ that it was intended that the regimental commander should make the detail where practicable; *i. e.* where there is, besides himself, at least one other field officer of the regiment present and serving with it.² In the absence of such an officer, the court, (the regimental commander not being authorized to detail himself,³) must, if detailed at all, be detailed by superior authority; and it may be inferred, from the provision in Art. 110 in regard to the taking of action upon the sentence of the brigade (or post) commander, that such commander would, under the circumstances indicated, be the proper authority to make the detail.⁴ Upon this point the law is incomplete. *In practice*, Field Officers' Courts, where resorted to, have commonly been detailed by commanders of regiments. Where it has been impracticable to convene them on account of the want

DIGEST, 61-2.

Id., 61.

Id., 62.

In some instances during the late war, *department* commanders ordered these courts, or ordered them to be detailed. See G. O. 24, of the Cumberland, 1862; Coppée, 43.

of material, or where, because the regiment was not embodied in a brigade or post command and its sentence could not therefore be executed, it would have been futile to have done so, an ordinary regimental or garrison court, or a general court, could have been convened instead; and, in convening the former court, the order, in view of the concluding provision of Art. 80, has usually been specified in terms that it was 'impracticable to detail a Field Officer.'

It is evident that an officer having a command which is less than a regiment, or which though greater does not embrace a regiment, is not empowered to detail a Field Officer under Art. 80.¹

Composition. The court must consist either of a colonel, lieutenant-colonel, or major, or of an officer who, though of a lower rank inferior to major, has the brevet rank of a field officer and has been duly assigned to duty according to his brevet rank. Such assignments, however, are rarely if ever made in regiments, and, in practice, the, (or a,) *major* of the regiment has commonly been detailed for the court. A captain, who is merely acting major, cannot legally be so detailed.

Further, from the terms of Arts. 80 and 110, it is clear that a Field Officer must be a *regimental* officer and an officer of a regiment to which the parties tried belong, and that a *staff* officer is not eligible for the detail.²

Jurisdiction. As has been remarked, the jurisdiction of a Field Officer is restricted to time of war. He cannot therefore legally be detailed under Art. 80 in time of peace. As to the persons within his jurisdiction, these, as indicated by the Art. are the enlisted men of the regiment in and for which he is detailed as a court. The regiment is the exclusive field of his jurisdiction and its limit. While he may try soldiers of the different companies of the regiment though serving at separate stations, &c., provided they are all under the command of the regimental commander, he may not try members of the regiment who are *detached* from it and serving with other and distinct commands.³ In brief, both as to offenders and offences, his jurisdiction

1. See DIGEST, 62.

2. Idem.

3. Idem

is identical with that, heretofore defined in this Chapter, the Regimental Court of three officers authorized by Art. 81.¹

Power of Punishment. The authority also of the Field Officer to award punishment upon conviction is made, by Art. 83, the same as that vested in the other inferior courts and already considered in this Chapter.

Procedure—No oath required. Neither the 84th² nor other article of the code requires that the Field Officer shall be specially sworn as a court, and in practice he has never been sworn such.

No judge advocate detailed. Under the general authority Art. 74, a judge advocate may probably be as legally detailed attend a Field Officer's as a regimental or garrison court.³ In practice, however, no judge advocate or recorder has ever been detailed. The Field Officer himself performs the whole duty of the court—conducts the investigation and keeps the record.⁴

The form of the record. The original Act of 1862 expressly provided that the Field Officer "*shall make a record of proceedings,*" and Art. 110 declares that no sentence adjudged by a Field Officer "*shall be carried into execution until the whole proceedings shall have been approved by the brigade commander,*"

The term "whole proceedings," like the same term as employed in Art. 104, is construed as meaning *material* proceedings, proceedings material and sufficient to sustain and validate sentence.⁵ As to the record of proceedings to be made by the Field Officer, this, in view of the summary nature of his action, can only be, and has in practice been, of a brief and simple character. Unlike the records of other inferior, or of general, courts, his record does not ordinarily set forth the testimony,

DIGEST, 62, 65.

The "regimental" court referred to in this article is evidently the regimental court of three officers, of Art. 81; the only one in existence at the original of Art. 84 was enacted.

As to the detailing of judge advocates for regimental and garrison courts, see this Chapter *ante*; also G. O. 15 of 1880.

DIGEST, 62.

As to the construction of these words in Art. 104, see Chapter XXI, "Approval."

when any is taken, nor does it contain any reference to the right of the accused of an opportunity for challenge, the Officer not being liable to challenge.¹ In other respects the order will properly follow the essential features of the record of other courts, setting forth such particulars as are requisite to support the authority and the action of the Officer. It will properly recite the order of detail, the names, &c., of the officers tried, their offences as charged and their pleas, the findings of the court and the punishments adjudged upon conviction, the whole being authenticated by the Officer's signature.²

Action upon the Proceedings. Art. 110, in making it essential to the legal execution of the sentence that the proceedings shall first be approved by the brigade, (or, if there be no post,) commander, is construed, upon the familiar principle *expressio unius exclusio alterius*, as confining the authority of approval to the particular commanders named,—excluding from, for example, a division or department commander.³ When, therefore, a regiment is a part neither of a brigade nor a division command, it will, as already remarked, be quite useless for a regimental commander to detail a field officer as a court, since any punishment adjudged by him can take effect: some other court will therefore properly be resorted to.

The Article requiring that the proceedings and sentence, when operative, shall be approved by the brigade (or post) commander, it follows that where he *disapproves* the proceedings, the sentence, as in the case of the proceedings of a general court,⁴ are renuncatory⁵ and no punishment can be enforced. Where the proceedings are *approved* by such commander, the execution of the sentence will in general properly be devolved upon the regimental commander.

1. DIGEST, 63, 70. And see Chapter XIV.

2. DIGEST, 62, 63.

3. Proceedings of Field Officers' Courts have indeed been published and approved by department (and district) commanders in sundry General Orders, of which the greater number were G. O. No. 1, First Military District, of 1868-9. This was, however, before the promulgation of the Articles of 1874, in which the law on the subject of action upon the proceedings of these courts is more succinctly expressed than in the Act of 1862.

4. Chapter XXI, *ante*—"Disapproval."

5. Except of course that they may be pleaded as a "former conviction." See Chapter XVI, *ante*.

Pardon and Mitigation. The present Articles of war—in Art. 112 or elsewhere—fail to authorize the convening officer or other military commander, or the Field Officer, to pardon or mitigate punishments awarded by the latter.¹

MILITARY BOARDS.

Beside the boards of examination, inspection, investigation, &c.,² convened from time to time by the President or military superiors in the exercise of their commands, and not calling for special notice in this treatise, there are two more important species of boards, one authorized by statute and one by army regulation, of which brief mention should here be made. These are Retiring Boards and Boards of Survey.

RETIRING BOARDS.

The law on the subject. These are the boards constituted and empowered, and whose duties are prescribed, under and by sections 1246 to 1253 of the Revised Statutes.³ These statutes provide—that the Secretary of War, under the direction of the President, shall, from time to time, assemble such boards, of from five to nine officers, two fifths of whom shall be medical officers; the members other than medical to be, “as far as may be, *seniors in rank* to the officer whose disability is inquired of;”—that the members of the board shall be *sworn* in every case to discharge their duties honestly and impartially;”—that the board,

1. The “regimental” court referred to in Art. 112 is evidently the court, commonly designated by that title, authorized by Art. 81. See *ante*, as to the “regimental” court referred to in Art. 84.

2. As, for example, the boards authorized or recognized in the Rev. Sts., Secs. 1160, 1172, 1196, 1206, 1208, 1214, 1325, (Academic Board of the Military Academy,) 1327, (Board of Visitors to the Academy,) 1328, (Board of Commissioners of the Military Prison;) and in the Acts of June 23, 1874, June 18, 1878, &c.; also the Board of Engineers provided for by par. 2478, Army Regs., and the board of inspection of recruits, (par. 821.) With these also are to be classed the Post and Regimental Councils of Administration, (Art. XLI, A. R.) As to these last see Kautz, Customs of the Service, 158–169.

3. Similar provisions as to *naval* retiring boards are contained in Secs. 1448 to 1453, Rev. Sts.

It may be noted that retirement on account of *age* or *duration of service* is a proceeding wholly distinct from retirement for disability as ascertained by a board: for the former no inquiry is necessary other than reference to the officer's military record.

for the purposes of the investigation of the matter of the ability and incapacity of officers, "shall have such *powers* of court-martial and of a court of inquiry as may be necessary;" that the board shall *find* upon the questions of the incapacity: active service of the officer, the cause of his incapacity, and whether or not such cause was an incident of the service;—that the *approval* of the President shall be necessary to give effect to the finding of the board;—that the President, in approving, shall *retire* the officer *from active service* merely, (if found to have been incapacitated by an incident of the service,) or, (if not so found,) may, in his discretion, "*wholly retire*" him, *i. e.* drop him from the army;—that no officer whose case is inquired into by a retiring board shall be retired "without a *full and fair hearing*" before the board, if he demand it."

Composition. The provision, above cited, of Sec. 1246, that the members, other than medical, "shall, as far as may be," be "seniors in rank to the officer whose disability is inquired of," is analogous to the provision of the 75th Article of war in regard to the rank of the members of a court-martial, and is to be similarly construed.² As in that case it is to be considered that the statute is directory only upon the convening authority; that it is for him to determine the matter of the rank of the members; and that his detail of officers for the board, as shown by his order, is conclusive evidence that, so far as the interests and exigencies of the service have permitted, seniors in rank have been selected.

Swearing of members. The statute,—Sec. 1247,—though requiring that the members shall be sworn, does not specify how or by whom. No provision is made for a judge advocate or recorder, nor is the senior or the junior member empowered to qualify the others. *In practice*, however, a recorder is detailed with the board; and, inasmuch as, by Sec. 1248, the board is invested with the "powers" of a military court, the swearing is in general proceeded with as indicated in the 117th Article of war. Following, however, the terms of Sec. 1247, the members need but to be simply sworn "to discharge their duties honestly and impartially."

1. As to the effect of "wholly retiring," as a form of summary dismissal, see *post*, Chapter XXV—"Ninety-Ninth Article."

2. See Chapter VII—"Composition of General Courts-Martial."

powers. The provision that the board "shall have such powers of a court-martial and of a court of inquiry as may be necessary," &c., is indefinite, but has given rise to but little question in practice. Construing it in connection with the other provisions cited, its evident intention is seen to be that the board shall have and exercise such powers of a "court" as may be requisite to insure a full investigation, to afford a fair hearing, to enable it satisfactorily to determine the questions referred. It is properly authorized and empowered to call for and retain such testimony of witnesses, depositions, documents or papers, as may be material to establish or illustrate the nature or extent of the disability,¹ to pass upon questions of admissibility of evidence, to grant continuances, to give the officer ordered before it a reasonable opportunity of defence if desired, to find and report in his absence if he fail to appear; and further to determine the relevancy and validity of challenges to its members and punish acts in the nature of contempt, according to Arts. 1 and 88, if necessary to an impartial and complete inquiry. But the board cannot entertain a charge of a military offence as such, nor assume to *try*.² If the case be one calling for trial and punishment, it should be referred to a court-martial.³

the hearing. In view of the provision of Sec. 1253, in relation to the "full and fair hearing" to be afforded, the board will necessarily give every officer ordered before it such a hearing if he require one,⁴—allowing him to introduce all reasonably material evidence as to the causes and circumstances of the alleged disability and his acts and record in the service, to cross-examine witnesses and interpose objections to testimony offered on the part of the military authorities, to be assisted by counsel, and to make

¹ "The investigation is not affected by any limitation of time, as is of a court-martial—viz. by Art. 103." DIGEST, 431.

See DIGEST, 431.

Compare Sec. 1450, Rev. Sts., as to the *Navy*.

In a case of an officer of the *navy*, retired upon the report of a board, before which, without fault on his part, he had not been afforded a hearing to which he was entitled by Sec. 1455, Rev. Sts., it was held by the Attorney General, (XVI Opins., 20,) that—the vacancy in his position on the active list not having been filled—the President was authorized to revoke the order of retirement in order that the officer might have the opportunity to be duly heard before his case was finally disposed of. But compare *Miller v. U. S.*, 19 Ct. Cl. 339.

argument or statement. There will, rarely, however, be an appeal before a retiring board where the officer is ordered before it on his own application; otherwise perhaps where the proceedings are *in invitum*. In the latter case, if upon due notice the officer fails to appear, he will be held to have waived his right to a "hearing."

The finding. Though Sec. 1250 refers to this as the "decision of the board," and Sec. 1248 authorizes the board to "determine the facts," it is clear, from these sections and Sec. 1249, that the finding is but in the nature of a recommendation, without binding force or effect unless approved by the President and acted upon accordingly.¹

Action. The action of the President is prescribed by Secs. 1251 and 1252, as above indicated. In any case in which, in his judgment, the investigation has not been complete, or the finding is not justified by the facts, he may return the proceedings to the board for a further inquiry or hearing, or a correction of its conclusions, as in a case of a court-martial. But not being a court-martial, the board, upon a reconsideration, may, and should if so directed, re-examine former witnesses or take new testimony.

BOARDS OF SURVEY.

These are boards of officers, "not to exceed three,"² authorized by the Army Regulations to be convened by commanding officers for the purpose of investigating the cause and fixing the responsibility in cases of deficiency or damage of public property furnished for military use; of verifying discrepancies, if any, when such property is transferred from one officer to another; of taking inventories of such property when required to be abandoned or when the officer in charge has deceased, and for other purposes indicated in the Regulations.³

The regulations on the subject are contained in Title LXXVIII of the Army Regulations of 1880. These regulations are so full that they call for but little comment.

1. And he "cannot properly take exception to a conclusion arrived at in his absence." DIGEST, 432.

2. DIGEST, 431. As to the effect of the findings *per se*, see *Burns v. U. S.*, 19 Ct. Cl. 138; XVI Opins. At. Gen., 104.

3. Their *composition* is further regulated in par. 1397.

4. See pars. 1400, 1402.

Province and duty in general. The main object and use of board of survey is to decide whether a certain officer, soldier or her person, shall be charged with the amount of a particular loss deficiency, or relieved from liability therefor;¹ or to determine a estion of responsibility for property as between two or more icers, soldiers, or other persons. While such a board is not a art and cannot try, convict, or acquit,² it may, like a court of quiry, report facts and conclusions which will properly form the sis for a military charge or a civil prosecution. It is impor- it, therefore, that it should investigate,³ as thoroughly as its want power to swear witnesses will permit,⁴ and report, the full tes- iony bearing upon the question at issue. Thus where public res received at a military station are found to be deficient or naged, the board of survey, (which should be convened with- : delay,) should make so extended and complete an investi- ion as that it shall, if practicable, satisfactorily be made to ear from its report what party,—whether original sender, inter- diate forwarding officer, contractor for supplies or transporta- n, common carrier or other agent, or consignee or actual re- ver,—is the person really accountable for the loss, damage, demurrage.⁵ To facilitate the solution of the question, the ard should annex to their report all material bills of lading, oices, and receipts, specify the routes and modes of transpor- ion, state the names and marks on the packages, &c.⁶ If the

1. See par. 1401, 1405, A. R.

2. DIGEST, 125.

3. See par. 1401, A. R.

4. The ruling of the Judge Advocate General, that boards of survey : not empowered to swear either themselves or witnesses, as published G. O. 68 of 1873, is now incorporated in the Regulations, par. 1398.

5. Circ. 6, Dept. of Texas, 1865; G. O. 15, Id., 1871; G. O. 32, 52, pt. of Dakota, 1867; Do. 12, Id., 1870; Do. 87, Id., 1873.

6. A contractor cannot be bound, without his consent, by the report of a urd of survey. See *Heathfield v. U. S.*, 8 Ct. Cl. 213. Otherwise ere he has stipulated in the contract to be so bound. And in such e, the report, if not objected to by the contractor when a copy is fur- ed him, will subsequently be supported as sufficient by the courts, ugh it merely consist of a conclusion without statement of evidence easons. *U. S. v. Shrewsbury*, 23 Wallace, 508.

7. Circ. 6, Dept. of Texas, 1865; G. O. 24, Div. of the Pacific, 1866.

8. In addition to the Orders above cited, see further—as containing in- ctions, &c., in regard to these boards—G. O. 33, Dept. of the Co- ia, 1868; Do. 21, Dept. of Texas, 1875; Circ. 2, Fifth Mil. Dis-

loss was the fault of no person, but was incurred through the violence of the elements or the operations incident to a state of war, this fact should be made fully to appear.

The hearing. Where the investigation involves an inquiry into the acts or proceedings of a particular officer or soldier, or a question of his accountability, he should be allowed to appear before the board and be fully heard in defence or explanation. While the board may receive in evidence affidavits where no better form of evidence is attainable, its investigation should, if practicable, be in no respect *ex parte*;¹ the person or persons interested being afforded a reasonable opportunity to file counter affidavits or introduce oral or written evidence.

Action. As indicated in par. 1406 of the Regulations, the report of the board, to become the basis of official action, should receive the *approval* of the convening authority. That officer will also properly endorse upon, or state in connection with, the report, what action he may himself have taken in the case. Thus it is specifically directed in several of the General Orders that he should cause carriers or contractors to be charged with the money value of property for which they are found by the board to be accountable, on the bills of lading before they are signed.³

Par. 1406 further prescribes that the approval or action of the convening authority shall be "subject to revision by higher authority." Thus General Order 101 of the War Department, of 1875, declares that the proceedings of boards of survey "will not be regarded as complete and sufficient vouchers for the settlement of officers' accounts until revised by the Department Commander."⁴ Later orders, however, of 1879 and 1880, incorporated in pars. 1411 and 1412, require that the proceedings, to constitute complete vouchers, must be accepted by the Secretary of War.

trict, 1868; Circ., Dept. of Cal., Mch. 20, 1872; Do., Id., Jan. 2, 1873; Kautz, Customs of the Service, 131-140.

1. DIGEST, 125.

2. G. O. 12, Dept. of Cal., 1869.

3. G. O. 12, Dept. of Dakota, 1870; Do. 12, Dept. of Cal., 1869. In the last Order it is said—"A failure to do so will throw the responsibility on the officer who may have signed the bill of lading without having first called for the board of survey, to examine into losses and fix responsibility thereof."

4. As to further action by the Department Commander, see pars. 1411 and 1408, A. R.

CHAPTER XXIII.

THE RECORD.

Now Relating to the Subject. Though courts-martial *are* of record in any such sense as that in which the employed in the civil practice,¹ it is yet the uniform our service for all such courts, whether general or in- make and render formal records of the proceedings of ried by them. They are not in terms required by any keep records, but that they will properly do so is clearly ited by the code in Arts. 104, 110, 111, 113, and 114,³ er to the approving, forwarding, and preserving and fur- opies, of the "proceedings" of military courts,—by Sec. . Sts., which makes it the duty of the Judge Advocate o receive, &c., such "proceedings,"—by Sec. 1203, which requires that the "reporter," thereby authorized ointed, "shall record" such proceedings,—and by the arch 3, 1877, which provides for the disposition of the " of inferior courts.

my Regulations indeed are more explicit in their refer- he record. Par. 914 directs that—"Every court-mar- keep a complete and accurate record of its proceedings," goes on to indicate certain particulars which "the rec- show." Par. 915 directs that the record "shall be d legibly written," &c. Par. 917 directs as to the form "the record of the proceedings" shall be "endorsed," . 918 and 919 direct as to the transmittal of the "pro-

bers *v.* Jennings, 7 Mod. 125; *Ex parte* Watkins, 3 Peters, on *v.* John, 2 Binney, 215; Ricketts *v.* Walker, Sup. Ct., Cal- ch 31, 1841; Hough, (P.) 718.

the records of Field Officers' Courts which are less formal than her courts, see Chapter XXII.

are Arts. 120, 121, as to the "proceedings" of Courts of

ceedings" to the proper official. Par. 923 refers to the revision and correction of the "record."

The custom of the service, however, to a much greater extent than regulation, must be the guide as to the form and substance of the statements and recitals in a record of a court-martial.

General Duty of the Court as to the Record. The record is the act and record of the *court*, not of the judge advocate. The latter is, here, but the ministerial officer who notes the proceedings under the court's direction.¹ The record is not the history of a prosecution, but of an impartial investigation conducted by a body of officers in pursuance of the order of a competent superior and of an oath which requires them to conduct it faithfully. It is thus the court that makes the record and is responsible for it;² its responsibility consisting in the rendering of a full and accurate report of the facts and law developed on the hearing, completed by a final judgment in due form.³

Fundamental Rules for the making up of the Record. Two general rules properly governing the framing of the record may be specified at the outset, namely:—

1. The record must fully set forth all the proceedings had in the particular case. Thus it must include the original assembling under the Order or Orders convening and composing the court; the preliminary challenging, if any, and the action thereupon; the organization for the trial; the appoint-

1. See Chapter XIII; DIGEST, 300.

2. DIGEST, 421.

3. See G. O. 3, Dept. of the Pacific, 1863; Do. 23, Dept. of the South, 1870. Courts-martial, (with their judge advocates,) have been not unfrequently censured in G. O., on account of material omissions and other errors appearing in their records. See, for example, G. O. 23, Dept. of the Mo., 1861; Do. 120, Id., 1867; Do. 23, Army of the Potomac, 1863; Do. 62, 76, Dept. of the Gulf, 1863; Do. 54, Dept. of the South, 1863; Do. 25, 38, 41, Northern Dept., 1864; Do. 16, Id., 1865; Do. 49, Dept. of the Susquehanna, 1864; Do. 10, Dept. of Pa., 1865; Do. 37, Middle Mil. Dept., 1865; Do. 41, Dept. of Fla., 1865; Do. 25, Dept. of So. Ca., 1866; Do. 54, Dept. of Dak., 1867; Do. 25, Id., 1868; Do. 2, Dept. of La., 1868; Do. 4, Dept. of the Lakes, 1867; Do. 5, Id., 1868; Do. 14, Dept. of Texas, 1876; G. C. M. O. 2, Dept. of Arizona, 1883; Do. 31, Dept. of the Mo., 1885.

In general, however, the commander should first, where practicable, afford the court an opportunity to correct its errors, by the return of the record for *revision*. See Chapter XXI.

it of reporter or employment of clerk, if any, and introduction of counsel; the arraignment and pleas, with special pleas, if any, disposition of same; the sworn testimony and written evidence, with the objections to its admission and rulings thereon; closing arguments or statements; the findings and sentence; together with all motions, adjournments, continuances, proceedings for contempt if any,¹ proceedings upon revision if any, &c.; short every material act, proposition, or occurrence, essential to perfect the history of the investigation as such, and to advise the reviewing authority as to all the questions of fact and law involved in the case.² The only acts of the court or members properly embraced in the minutes are the discussions, votes, had or given in secret session where the court is closed for deliberation upon its judgment or some interlocutory question. These discussions are no part of the formal record;³ and, as to the statements and opinions of members, the stating of these is precluded by Arts. 84 and 85. It is in fact only the *result* of a deliberation in secret session that is to be entered upon the record.

Each record must be an entirety. In other words, when several cases are tried by the same court, each and every record must be entire and perfect within itself; *i. e.* both in form and substance wholly distinct and separate from the record of every other case. Each record must be an original official document, finished and complete in all its details, with no particular left to be supplied by a reference to any previous or other record or order, and as single and individual as if it were the record of the case tried by the court.⁴ This rule is illustrated by par. 888 of the Regulations, which directs that "the proceedings in each case will be made up separately;" that is to say that the records of the different cases tried shall not be consolidated or attached

As to the form of the record of proceedings had for contempt, see chapter XVII.

See DIGEST, 413; G. O. 11, Dept. of the Platte, 1868; Do. 51, Id., 1868; Do. 8, First Mil. Dist., 1868; Do. 3, Dept. of the Pacific, 1863.

O'Brien, 283.

See G. O. 292 of 1863; Do. 2, Dept. of the Pacific, 1863; Do. 12, Dept. of the Gulf, 1866; Do. 120, Dept. of the Mo., 1867; Do. 5, 21, Fifth Mil. Dist., 1868; Do. 176, Id., 1869; Do. 7, Dept. of the South, 1869; Do. 74, Dept. of Dakota, 1869; Do. 29, Dept. of the Platte, 1871; DIGEST, 413.

together as parts of a continuous report of the court, but prepared and transmitted as successive and independent communications.'

Details of the Record. Premising with the remark that the record, as indeed directed by the Army Regulations,' should be legibly and neatly written, we proceed to indicate the form and manner of exhibiting the several details of the same in their order.

Prefixing of copies of Orders. The original Order convening the court, constituting as it does the initial authority for its existence and action, and the foundation for all the subsequent proceedings, is the logical starting point of the record, which should therefore properly be prefaced by a copy of the same. Par. 914 of the Regulations directs that a copy be entered on the record in each case. It is not *necessary* indeed that it be prefixed, since it may be appended at the end; the best, however, and now uniform practice is to prefix it. In addition to specifying the detail of members, time and place of assembling, &c., it should show, by its heading and subscription, by what commander,—whether Commander-in-chief, general of the Army, commander of a separate army, department, division, separate brigade, regiment, garrison, &c.,—it has been issued, thus testing at the outset the legality of the entire proceedings.

If, as is the more usual course, a series of cases are brought to trial before the court, a separate copy of the convening Order is to be prefixed to the record of each case. Merely to prefix a copy to the record of the first case tried is to render each record after the first incomplete, thus disregarding the above-stated general rule—that each record should be complete and perfect of itself.

1. DIGEST, 413. And compare VIII Opins. At. Gen., 336, 340.

2. Par. 915 prescribes—"The record shall be clearly and legibly written, as far as practicable, without erasures or interlineations." Imperfect legibility is noticed as a defect in G. O. 23, Army of the Potomac, 1863; Do. 3, Dept. of the Pacific, 1863; G. C. M. O. 5, 6, Dept. of the Mo., 1875. Erasures and interlineations occurring in records are adverted upon in the two first of these G. O.; also in Do. 76, Dept. of the Gulf, 1863.

Though the regulation contemplates that the record will be written, there is no legal objection to *printing* it in whole or in part, except course the signatures of the president and judge advocate. Such printing, however, has not in general been found to be advantageous in practice.

here, subsequently to the issue of the original Order, there issued supplementary Orders relieving or adding members, adding a new judge advocate, changing the place or time of session, or otherwise modifying the first Order, copies of all such Orders should in general be prefixed, in the proper succession, to each record made up after their dates, not only as belonging to the history of the proceedings, but as indicating perhaps the authority for the appearing and acting of a member or members as judge advocate, which otherwise would not be exhibited on the face of the record.¹ In this class of Orders are included also in the form of telegrams:² copies of these, where affecting *personnel* of the court, &c., should be prefixed until Orders of more formal character be substituted therefor. Where, pending a session of the court, a new Order or telegram of the class under consideration is communicated to the court, the same should properly be entered in the body of the proceedings, at the point at which it was received, and prefixed to the subsequent records of trials by the same court. Where an Order ceases to have effect,—as where it is wholly superseded by a subsequent Order,—it may be omitted from further records. If any considerable number of Orders modifying the original detail, &c., have been issued, and are properly required to be prefixed to each record, it may be found convenient to have them *printed*.

Statement of original assembling of the court. The record of the actual proceedings of the court begins with a statement of the first assembling of members at the proper place and time in accordance with the terms of the convening Order. If full detail makes its appearance, a statement in the record that *all the members were present* will be legally sufficient: the preferable form, however, is to specify the several members by name, in the order of their rank, with their official designations. A statement to the effect that *the same members* were present as at a previous trial by the same court is irregular and insufficient, contravening the fundamental rule that the proceedings of

In Circular, No. 12, Hdqrs. of Army, of 1883, "the use of a scribe or writer in writing out sentences of courts-martial is disapproved." In G. O. 3 and 7, Dept. of the Mo., 1863, the proceedings were proved as incomplete on account of the omission of copies of such orders.

See G. O. 3, Dept. of the Mo., 1863.

each case should be complete *in se* and not required to be mented from the record of any other case.¹

If less than five members attend on the first day, those should, regularly, be specified by name, and then those with a mention of the reason for the absence of any members if known: if not known, the form generally adopted is 'Cause of absence unknown.'² To this should follow the statement that, no quorum being present, the members thereon adjourned.

The presence of the judge advocate and of the accusers present in fact, should also be specified. If absent, the cause of absence should be stated when known. If an adjournment is taken on account of the absence of either, it should be so stated. If the judge advocate is not present at the first assembling, the senior member will properly retain a memorandum of the proceedings to be furnished the judge advocate for incorporation in the formal record.

Statement of subsequent assemblings. The statement of the assembling of the court on the second and subsequent days of a trial should be headed with the proper place and date, and should recite that the court met pursuant to adjournment, and then list the members present as in the record of the original session. The statement should state—where such is the fact—that 'the same members were present as yesterday,' or 'as at the last session,' is a form sometimes adopted but not to be favored: it is always better to specify the members present.

1. So, statements simply to the effect that "the Court began the session," after a certain completed trial, "proceeded to the trial," &c.; or that "the Court met pursuant to adjournment," from a previous trial—without adding who were present; are faulty as not showing the members present without a reference to some other distinct proceeding, what and how many members attended at the particular trial. See G. O. 292 of 1864, Dept. of Ark., 1865; Do. 120, Dept. of the Mo., 1867; Do. 51, of the Platte, 1871.

2. See G. O. 3, 14, Dept. of the Mo., 1862; Do. 4, Dept. of N. M., 1864; Do. 97, Dept. of Dakota, 1871; G. C. M. O. 54, Dept. of the Platte, 1876.

3. It is not unusual to head the proceedings of the successive days of a trial—"First Day"—"Second Day," &c. So, the records of successive trials tried by the same court are sometimes endorsed as—"Case"—"Second Case," &c.

4. "In every case the particular *date* of the first and each subsequent meeting should be stated in the record." G. C. M. O. 54, Dept. of the Platte, 1875, (Gen. Crook.)

members present on each day though they may be always the same.¹ Their rank should of course be given, but a variance in the designation of the rank of a member in any day's proceedings from the designation of the same in the convening of the court, occasioned by the promotion or new appointment of the member, will not affect the validity of the proceedings, the member being otherwise sufficiently identified.² Where, however, a member has been so promoted, &c., the fact should be noted in the proceedings of the day on which he first occupies his seat with his new rank. Other changes in the personnel of the members, as the relieving of old members or detailing new ones, should be entered in the record of the session at the same time as they are officially communicated to the court.

The presence of the judge advocate,³ and of the accused, (and that of the counsel, if any,) should also be particularized. If a new judge advocate has been detailed, the fact and that of his attendance should be specified. On all days and occasions of trial on which any material proceeding is had or business transacted, the accused,—unless he has wilfully absented himself, as by escaping from military custody or deserting the service, or has been obliged to be removed on account of drunkenness or disorderly conduct,⁴—is entitled to be present and his presence is essential to the legality of the proceedings and sentence.⁵ When absent, therefore, the fact of his absence should be affirmatively stated at the commencement of the record of the day's session,

¹ See G. O. 3, Dept. of the Pacific, 1863; Do. 5, Dept. of La., 1868. Do. 37, Middle Mil. Dept., 1865. Gen. Hancock comments on an official record as follows:—"Upon one day 'all' are recorded as present; upon another 'all but one;' upon another 'all but two:;' no one individualized, and the presumption is that certain members absent one day, when testimony was received were permitted to act and take part in deliberations of the court on subsequent days. This is inexcusable negligence."

² See G. O. 40, Dept. of Ark., 1864.

³ The presence of this official should not be left to be inferred from the statement of his being sworn, or of his putting questions to the witness, but should be specifically declared. G. C. M. O. 45, Dept. of Ark., 1874.

⁴ See Prendergast, 208.

⁵ O. 185, Dept. of the Ohio, 1863; Do. 81, Northern Dept., 1864; Dept. of Ark., 1865; DIGEST, 415; Simmons § 470; Clode, M. O. 1865. And compare Long v. State, 52 Miss. 23; Graham v. State, 40 Ark. 10; Witt v. State, 5 Cold. 11.

and not left to presumption.¹ If absent, his absence is similarly accounted for.

If on the second or a subsequent day, a quorum does not or the judge advocate or accused is prevented by sickness or otherwise from being present, the record will properly specify the absence, and will in general add that the members present journeyed on account of such absence. Members who first appear on a day subsequent to that of the original assembling will render some explanation of their previous absence, which will be entered in the proceedings for the information of the reviewing authority:² under similar circumstances, a similar excuse may be offered by the judge advocate, and recorded. Unless this has been authorized, by the convening or a subsequent order, "sit without regard to hours," the record will properly state the hour of assembling as well as of adjournment on each day, so that it may appear that Art. 94 has been complied with. This statement, however, is not an *essential*, since, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, it will be *presumed* that the legal requirements were observed.³

Where *adjournments* are taken or *continuances* granted, the periods should be specified, and it should appear from the record that the court reassembled on the day thus fixed.⁴ A statement of an adjournment to the next or a succeeding day should be noted at the end of each day's session. This statement should be required to be subscribed by the president and judge advocate by the latter; though it sometimes is so subscribed in practice.

Further the record of each day's session after the first should state if such was the fact—properly state at the opening, (though this is not an essential,) that the proceedings of the previous session were read and approved; any corrections made upon reading being specifically noted.⁵

1. See authorities cited in last note.

2. See G. O. 4, Dept. of N. Mexico, 1864; Do. 106, Dept. of N. Mexico, 1871.

3. On this subject, see DIGEST, 78, 419.

4. In a case in G. O. 180, Fifth Mil. Dist., 1869, one of the grounds upon which the sentence was disapproved was that the court had adjourned on a day different from that to which it had specifically adjourned on a previous day. And see, to a similar effect, G. O. 5, Dept. of La., 1868.

5. See DIGEST, 419.

tement as to Challenges. Art. 88 entitles the accused to challenge the members separately "for cause stated to the court." Par. 914 of the Army Regulations prescribes that—"the record must show * * * that he" (the accused) "was asked whether he had any objection to any member, and his answer thereto." The record should thus show that the Order or Orders convening the court and detailing the members present were read to the accused or communicated to him, and that he was afforded an opportunity of challenge by being asked if he objected to any member. If his answer is a negative one, the record should so show.

If in answer the accused makes any specific objection or objections, the same should be indicated, and the proceedings upon had as to each member objected to, including the peremptory declaration, if any be made, of the member, and, if issue is taken on the challenge, the argument or remarks of the judge advocate and of the accused or his counsel, with the evidence introduced if any, and finally the decision of the court in each case—should be fully set forth. If a member be added to the court subsequently to the organization, the record should similarly show that the opportunity to object to such member was fully afforded the accused, with the proceedings had in case of challenge.

The absence of an express declaration in the record to the effect that the accused was afforded an opportunity of challenge in some instances, been held fatal to the validity of the proceedings; in others, has been treated as ground merely for the disapproval of the proceedings. In the opinion of the author, an omission, though constituting certainly a grave irregularity, is not—being an omission to comply not with a statute but with an army regulation only—amount to a fatal defect.² After opportunity for challenge has been duly afforded the accused, the judge advocate should object to a member or mem-

When a challenge interposed by the accused has been acted upon, the record will properly show that he was asked whether he had any "peremptory" objections to the members, and his answer. See G. C. M. O. No. 10,000, 1882.

¹ III Opins. At. Gen., 397, the opinion is expressed by Attorney General Grady that "its not appearing on the record that the prisoner had if he had any objection to the members of the court is not sufficient cause for setting aside the proceedings."

bers on the part of the prosecution, record will be similarly of such objection and of the proceedings thereupon had.

Statement as to the qualifying of the members judge advocate, and organization for trial. Par. Army Regulations, directs that the record shall "show the court and judge advocate were duly sworn in the presence of prisoner." The record should therefore so state, and a state to this effect is sufficient without any recital of or reference to the form of the oath as prescribed by Arts. 84 and 85. The statement is to be made at the beginning of each separate record since the court and judge advocate are required to be sworn anew for each case tried.¹ If an absent member is admitted, a new member added, or new judge advocate detailed after original swearing of the court and judge advocate, the record should similarly show that such member or judge advocate before acting, was properly separately sworn.²

The form of statement as to the administering of the oaths most commonly adopted, is substantially that proposed by Judge Advocate General Holt, as follows: '*The members of the court were then severally duly sworn by the judge advocate, and the judge advocate was then duly sworn by the president of the court; all which oaths were administered in the presence of the accused.*' This is a suitable form for inferior equally as for general court-martial. Where several persons are to be jointly arraigned and tried, the record may well specify that the oaths were administered in the presence of *all* the accused.

But while the above form is to be recommended, any statement will, it is believed, properly be deemed sufficient from which it can be ascertained or fairly presumed by the reviewing authority that the members and judge advocate were in fact qualified as required by the Articles of war prior to the arraignment. The omission of the term "duly," or of the words "in the presence of the accused," has in some cases been held to vitiate the proceedings and sentence, in others has been treated as ground for

1. DIGEST, 416; G. O. 60 of 1873. Compare Coffin v. Wilborn, 150.

2. See G. O. 68 of 1863; G. C. M. O. 259 of 1865; G. O. 46, Dept. of the East, 1864; Do. 41, Dept. of Ark., 1864; Do. 5, Fourth Mil. D. 1868; G. C. M. O. 6, Dept. of Miss., 1865; G. O. 42, Dept. of the Tennessee, 1863.

the disapproval of the same. In the opinion of the author, the use of these terms is *essential*. But to omit either would be to reject a form established by regulation and usage, and would create an uncertain and unsafe mode of statement of a material and important particular.

It is upon the due and formal swearing of a quorum of members that the court is, properly speaking, *organized* for the purpose of a trial.¹ After setting forth, therefore, the qualifying of the members and judge advocate, the record may well add a statement to the effect that—*The court being duly organized then proceeded to the trial of the accused, (naming him,) upon the following charges and specifications.*

Statement of charges, arraignment and pleas. The charges and specifications—originals or copies—including “additional” charges, if any, should then follow or be specifically referred to as annexed to the proceedings. The preferable form, that almost invariably practiced, is to insert them in the body of the record at this point. Where—as is more usual—a copy is used, the name of the officer by whom the originals were signed should appear at the foot. This is not indeed essential, but as a material part of the history of the prosecution should not be omitted in a case of any importance.²

The record will then proceed to state the fact of the arraignment of the accused upon the charges and specifications, and his pleas of Guilty or Not Guilty to the same respectively. Where the plea is identical to all, it may be recited that—‘to all of which charges,’ &c., he pleaded ‘Guilty’ or ‘Not Guilty,’ or in terms of such effect. The approved form of statement, however, is to state the pleas separately as made to each several charge or specification in its order.

If a special plea is interposed at this stage,—as a plea to the jurisdiction, or a plea of the statute of limitations, of pardon, or former trial,—the same should be specified with the grounds upon which it is based. If expressed in writing, the written plea should be incorporated in the record, or referred to as annexed.

Par. 914, Army Regs., directs:—“The record must show that the court was organized as the law requires.” That is to say, that at least a majority of the members, accepted by the parties or held competent on challenge, were duly sworn for the trial.

See DIGEST, 417.

The issue, if any, raised upon the plea, with the evidence, if any, argument, and ruling of the court, will follow. If the plea be sustained, and the same has covered all the charges, the record will terminate with a statement of adjournment. If it be overruled, the next statement will regularly be that the accused was then called upon to plead to the merits, and pleaded accordingly, with a recital of the pleas as made. Should a *motion*—as a motion to strike out—be made at this point, the proceedings will be similarly set forth. If, upon arraignment, the accused stand mute, this fact, with the action thereupon taken as required by Art. 8, should be particularized.

Statement of the testimony. The record must set forth fully and independently the testimony of each witness,¹ specifying by which side—prosecution or defence—he is introduced, and that he is first duly sworn or affirmed as the case may be. The testimony should be given, not in mass, but in the form of separate answers to specific questions.² The answers as recorded should be as nearly as practicable in the exact words of the witness, no matter how indefinite, disconnected, ungrammatical, or inelegant the same may be.³ If the answers as rendered are liable to be misunderstood, the accused should be called upon for further questions to explain the obscure portions.⁴ For the judge to assume to translate the testimony into what he considers elegant or correct English, or to substitute his own language for that of the witness, or to record only such testimony as he may deem material, or to abbreviate or summarize the testimony,—would constitute not merely a serious dereliction of duty.

1. See III Opins. At. Gen., 545.

2. A mere reference to the testimony of such witness, as taken in a similar case previously tried by the same court, is of course wholly insufficient. See G. O. 2, Dept. of the Pacific, 1863; Do. 29, Dept. of the Platte, 1869. (Remarks of Gen. Augur.)

3. G. O. 77, Dept. of the East, 1870. In G. O. 11, Dept. of the Pacific, 1868, it was noticed as a serious irregularity that in the proceedings in several cases there was "an omission to record the questions propounded." Similarly in G. O. 8, First Mil. Dist., 1868.

4. Hough, (A.) 79, writes—"But to record at all times barrack phraseology is not expected." And Coppée, (p. 74,)—"In case the witness is a foreigner, his idiomatic mistakes may be corrected in the record." The only safe and accurate mode is to record the testimony *precisely given*, calling upon the witness afterward to explain it, if necessary, by elucidating it by other evidence.

5. See last note.

is part but a very grave irregularity on the part of the court sitting it.¹ Where any considerable amount of testimony has been given by a witness, especially where it has been taken down in short hand, the record should show that it was read over to the witness, opportunity being afforded him to make corrections, and was pronounced by him to be correctly recorded.

Where a deposition, or other written or documentary evidence, either original or copy, is introduced, the same will in general probably be marked and attached to the record as an exhibit, proper reference being made thereto in the body of the proceedings.² A brief writing, however—as a simple post or field Order, a letter, &c.—may well be copied into the record of the day's session, the original, if such be introduced, being annexed at the end and so indicated.

Whenever the admission of evidence is objected to, the nature of the objection should be stated, with the discussion, if any, and the ruling of the court upon the issue. The character of evidence which is ruled out should appear as clearly as that of evidence which is admitted.³ A clearing of the court for

DIGEST, 417. An irregularity of this class, which has properly pointedly condemned in several cases, is the omission to record in whole or in part the testimony of a witness on the ground that such testimony is merely *corroborative* of that of a previous witness. In a case G. O. 192, Dept. of the Ohio, 1863, the proceedings were disapproved on account of such an omission. And see Griffiths, 109.

As to the making up of Exhibits with the record, see par. 915, 7 Regs.; also G. C. M. O. 80 of 1875, which directs as follows:—"papers received in evidence, and other exhibits, should be securely attached to the record, but in such a way that they can be freely read, in the order in which they are received, and distinctly numbered so as to facilitate reference to them." Failure to attach writings introduced in evidence has been frequently remarked upon in Gen. Orders. The omission seems to have more frequently occurred where the writing was an extract from a book—as a Morning Report Book, Clothing Book, &c. In such cases, an abstract of so much as relates to the offence charged, and actually put in evidence, should be entered in the body of the record and attached as an Exhibit. G. O. 63, Dept. of the East, 1864; G. O. 49, Dept. of the Mo., 1875. The rule applies equally to writings introduced in proof of good character—as testimonials, honorable discharges, &c. Copies of such should properly be appended at the end of the record. G. C. M. O. 1, Dept. of the Platte, 1880; Do. 64, Div. of Pacific & Dept. of Cal., 1881.

See Lieut. Col. Fremont's Trial, p. 240. The court was ordered to expunge as inadmissible or improper any evidence introduced by Capt. Barron's Trial, p. 47.

deliberation upon an objection to testimony, with the subsequent reopening, should be specifically noted.¹

It is usual and convenient to specify in the record the fact of the closing of the testimony on the part of the prosecution, and its opening on the part of the defence.

Where no evidence is introduced by the accused, it should appear that he was afforded an opportunity to make a defence by being called upon to offer testimony, and that he declined to do so. Where also the accused or the judge advocate declines to cross-examine a witness examined in chief by the other, this will properly be noted.²

Where the accused himself takes the stand, it should properly be stated in the record, in view of the provision of the Act of March 16, 1878, c. 37, that he is introduced as a witness for defence *at his own request*.³

If a witness is examined through an *interpreter*, the record should state the occasion therefor—as that the witness is a foreigner who does not speak English or speaks it but imperfectly, specifying also the fact of the swearing of the interpreter.⁴

Statement as to closing arguments or addresses. The record will, in general, next set forth the written or verbal statement, address, or argument of the accused, if any is made, as well as that of the judge advocate if he adds one. Written statements are almost uniformly appended at the end of the proceedings; verbal ones are more commonly inserted in the body of the record. If the accused elects not to make a statement, the record will properly so specify.

Statement of finding and sentence. The statement of the court's finding, (which should be preceded by a mention of the clearing of the court for deliberation,) will preferably set forth the findings on all the charges and specifications separately in order, although the conclusion as to each may be identical. The findings, where other than simple verdicts of Guilty or Not Guilty

1. And so of the clearing and reopening wherever deliberation is suspended upon any interlocutory question whatever.

2. G. O. 18, 31, Dept. of Cal., 1872.

3. DIGEST, 482; G. C. M. O. 13, Dept. of Texas, 1882.

4. See Chapter, XVII.

ould be given with their qualifications, exceptions and substitutions, if any.¹

The statement of the sentence is the part of the record in which failure to be accurate may most easily defeat the intention of the court.² Care should especially be taken that there be no material variance in the name of the accused between the sentence and the specifications.³

Except in the single instance of a death sentence, where, in view of the terms of Art. 96, it may be, and in practice is, added to the sentence that two thirds of the members concurred therein, reference whatever to the vote of the members by which the finding or sentence was determined upon is to be made in the record. A statement that the finding or sentence was "unanimous" would be a gross, and now most exceptional, irregularity. Where the vote on a charge or specification is a tie, this fact of course is not to be stated, but an entry simply of Not Guilty is to be recorded.⁴

Certifying of the sentence and authentication of the record. It is directed by par. 914, Army Regulations, that the proceedings of courts-martial shall "be authenticated by the signatures of the president and judge advocate, who shall also certify in like manner the sentence pronounced by the court in each case." The sentence is certified by the writing below it, the officers designated, of their official signatures. The record authenticated by adding to the same, at the end of the final proceedings had, some such form as—*A true and complete record.*

Omissions to state or fully state findings have in some cases induced a disapproval of the proceedings; in others a ruling that the proceedings were thus rendered invalid in law. In G. O. 292 of 1863 the sentence was disapproved, and, in Do. 297, Id., held inoperative, because of inconsistency between the findings on the charges and those on the specifications.

See cases, in G. O. 25 and 42, Dept. of Dakota, 1868, of sentences approved as inoperative because failing to specify, the one the term of imprisonment imposed by the court, and the other the period for forfeiture of pay.

G. O. 6, Dept. of La., 1868; G. C. M. O. 45, Dept. of Texas, 1874; EST, 418.

G. C. M. O. 17 of 1871; Do. 1 of 1872. It need hardly be added nothing in the nature of a *protest*, by a member or members, against the finding or the sentence or any action of the court, can properly be entered upon or attached to the proceedings. See *ante*, p. 535.

Attest: A. B., *President*; C. D., *Judge Advocate*.¹ When the president or judge advocate has been changed pending the case, it is of course the one officiating at the time of the authentication who is to subscribe the same.² The certificate and authentication should, regularly, be executed in the presence of the court at the final adjournment, and as a part of the proceedings. If a formal authentication has been omitted, but the sentence has been duly certified, and the record contains no proceedings of the court subsequent to the sentence, the certification of the sentence may legally be accepted, and has generally been accepted as a substantial authentication of the whole proceedings. The omission, however, is no less an irregularity.

Where the proceedings have been formally duly authenticated and the record is subsequently returned for correction, and additional proceedings are thereupon had, it will be regular and proper to repeat the form of authentication at the end of such additional proceedings.⁴

Statement of final adjournment. It is customary to make a statement of this character at the end of the record, but the same is not required by law or regulation, and is quite unnecessary.⁵ The formal *authentication* of the record is the legal and proper final proceeding of the court.

The recommendation. This, as indicated in Chapter II, is no part of the legal record. When made, however, it is usually entered upon a blank page after the final authentication or upon an appended paper. The body of it may be written by any of the signing members, or by the judge advocate or a clerk, or by the members' dictation.

1. A similar form has been adopted in the Dept. of California. Circular of that Dept., of May 20, 1885. A statement of a final *adjournment*, signed by these two officers, has sometimes been employed as a form of authentication, but is clearly not properly such. That statement is itself without legal significance in the record, see *post*.

2. See DIGEST, 301, 418; G. C. M. O. 22, Dept. of the Columbia.

3. DIGEST, 418; G. C. M. O. 23, Dept. of Cal., 1884. The majority is unable to concur with the view as adopted in G. C. M. O. 30, Dept. of the East, 1882.

4. See G. O. 7, Dept. of the South, 1869.

5. DIGEST, 103.

Statement of proceedings upon revision. Where, as he authorized to do, the reviewing authority returns the record to the court for the correction of error, the proceedings thereupon should, as indicated in Chapter XXI, constitute a separate record in themselves, which, though properly attached at the end of the original record, should be quite independent of and distinct from the same. This, (which may well be headed—*Proceedings on Revision*,) will regularly recite that the court assembled at a certain time and place,—certain members named, and constituting a quorum of those who took part in the trial, being present,—in pursuance of the following Order or communication, in terms to such effect. The Order directing the reassembling of the court, and indicating the reason therefor, with accompanying papers if any, will then be inserted or referred to as appended. The action taken by the court in making the correction, or otherwise, will follow, and the whole be authenticated by the signatures of the president and judge advocate. As set forth in Chapter XXI, the conclusion and action of the court in making the declaration of the correction must wholly appear in the separate record of the revision. The portion of the original record to which the correction applies will be designated of course by the proper reference, but such portion is to be left as it stands, without erasure, interlineation, rewriting, note, or any other addition or modification whatever.¹

Statement of action of reviewing authority. This, while no part of the record of the court, completes the history of the case tried, and is accordingly, as a general rule, written upon the record after the last proceeding of the court—most properly after the formal authentication. The Army Regulations² indeed direct in regard to it, that—"The confirming authority shall state at the end of the proceedings in each case the decision and orders thereon."

It consists usually, as has already been indicated,³ of a statement, headed by a designation of the place, (headquarters of the command,) and date, and signed by the reviewing officer in his official capacity, to the effect that the proceedings, findings and

See DIGEST, 419, 440, 441; Chapter XXI—"Return of the proceedings for correction."

Par. 918.

See Chapter XXI—"Formulating of action," &c.

sentence are approved, or disapproved, in whole or in part, as the case may be, with such modification of the sentence by remission, commutation, or mitigation, if any, as may be deemed just and proper. Such directions, in regard to the manner and form of executing the sentence or a punishment as may be necessary, are added; and if the punishment adjudged is a reprimand, to be administered by the reviewing officer, it is administered in terms accordingly. The approval, disapproval, &c., may be stated without reasons or remarks, or may be accompanied by such comments upon the facts of the case, proceedings of the court, &c., as may be deemed to be called for.

Where the sentence adjudged is one requiring, for its execution, the confirmation of the President, (or other superior authority,) or where the execution of the sentence is suspended under Art. III, the action will in general consist simply of an approval of the proceedings and sentence, and a declaration that the proceedings are forwarded, (the execution of the sentence being stated—where such is the fact—to be suspended,) for the action of the President, &c. The record having reached the latter, his action, confirming, disapproving, remitting, commuting, or mitigating the sentence, with remarks if any, is written upon the record under or after that of the original reviewing authority, and the formal action is complete.

It is to be added that the action taken should be written in upon each and every separate case tried by the court, though it may be identical in each; and further that to append to a record a copy of the written or printed Order promulgating the proceedings, in lieu of a written approval or other action over the signature of the reviewing officer, is irregular and insufficient since this would be a substitution of a copy for the original.

Endorsement of the record. This, which is placed upon the record before the transmittal of the proceedings to the reviewing authority and his action thereon, should properly be in the form prescribed in par. 917 of the Regulations.

Effect of Loss or Destruction of Record of Trial. Where, by casualty of war, accident, or otherwise, a record duly completed and finally acted upon by the reviewing

been lost or destroyed, the judgment of the court is affected, and the sentence, if any, may legally be in any other case.¹ If the record be lost *before* the have been completed or been acted upon, they are vacated unless the record can be made up again from notes in the possession of the judge advocate or member.² In such a case indeed, the trial may be, unless,—an acquittal or conviction having been the original hearing,—the accused interposes a plea rial.³

tion of Law as to Regularity of Proceedings
Records. Where it appears on the face of a record that the court was legally constituted and commanded jurisdiction of the case tried, reasonable prell be made by the law in favor of the sufficiency eedings, which, provided that no statutory require-en disregarded, will in general, irregular though they form, properly be held to be regular in substance fact.³ As to any action indeed provided by *statute* oy the court, the record should clearly indicate that on has been complied with, but that it does so in bald t terms will not in general affect the validity of the or judgment, since the law will presume that what ave been done was *duly* done.⁴ And the presump-

421.

nons § 743-4; Gorham, 69; also Rules of Procedure, 94, 98. s presumption of "*omnia rite acta*," in civil cases, see Slade ranch C., 139; Hutton *v.* Blaine, 2 S. & R. 75, 79; Moore Id., 197; Trinity Church *v.* Higgins, 4 Robt. 1; Edwards *v.* s. 581. As to military cases, see Rex *v.* Suddis, 1 East, Case, Perry, 419; DIGEST, 420-422, note; Chapter V,

has been held in civil cases that, where the record simply he jury had been *sworn*, it was to be *presumed* that the in legal form, or "according to law." Edwards *v.* State, 2. State, 26 Miss. 362. Otherwise, however, where the rec- contain any statement whatever in regard to the swearing. im of the law will apply, that what does not appear at all ered as not having existed or been done. See

That an absence from the record of an
 he court or judge advocate has been
 ntence, unless the omission can be

tion will be stronger as to a particular required by regulation or usage only.' Thus where—as more frequently occurs in the hurry of time of war—the statements and recitals of a record of a legal court-martial are incomplete or otherwise defective, it will not necessarily result that the validity of the sentence adjudged is to be held to be fatally affected. If only the acts and formalities required of the court by the Articles of war or other *statute* are found to have been substantially observed and performed, the law will in general presume that the details of the proceedings were due and sufficient, and a failure of justice thus be obviated.

has been repeatedly held. III Opins. At. Gen., 396, 544; G. O. 32 1863; G. C. M. O. 21, Dept. of the Columbia, 1880.

1. Thus, though it has sometimes been held otherwise, an omission to state in the record that the court was sworn 'in the presence of the accused' will not, in the opinion of the author, affect the legal validity of the proceedings or sentence, where it may fairly be presumed from other statements in the record that the accused was present in fact. See *Trinity Church v. Higgins*, 4 Robt. 1 : Hough, (P.) 759.

CHAPTER XXIV.

COURTS OF INQUIRY.

subject of this Chapter will be considered under the following heads:—I. The Law relating to the Court of Inquiry; II. Nature, in general; III. Its Constitution; IV. Its Composition; V. Its Function; VI. The Recorder; VII. Procedure; VIII. Action on the Proceedings; IX. The Proceedings as Evidence.

I. THE LAW ON THE SUBJECT.

Articles of War. The law relating to Courts of Inquiry—modified with but slight modification from the provisions of the Articles of 1786¹—is almost entirely contained in the seven Articles of the existing code, from the 115th to the 121st, as follows:

. 115. *A court of inquiry, to examine into the nature of the transaction of, or accusation or imputation against, any officer or soldier, may be ordered by the President or by any commanding officer, but, as courts of inquiry may be perverted to dishonorable ends, and may be employed, in the hands of weak and envious persons, as engines for the destruction of military merit, they shall never be ordered by any commanding officer, except upon a demand of the officer or soldier whose conduct is to be inquired of.*

. 116. *A court of inquiry shall consist of one or more officers, not exceeding three, and a recorder, to reduce the proceedings and the result to writing.*

Up to this date, Courts of Inquiry in the army were sometimes ordered by Commanders under their general authority as such, and on various occasions were directed to be convened by Resolutions of Congress. For example, the case of the Inquiry directed by Congress and ordered by General Washington into the conduct of officers "in the Department," and other instances, in 1 Jour. Cong., 384, Do., 625.

"ART. 117. *The recorder of a court of inquiry shall administer to the members the following oath: 'You shall well and truly examine and inquire, according to the evidence, into the matter before you, without partiality, favor, affection, prejudice, or reward: so help you God.'* After which the president of the court shall administer to the recorder the following oath: 'You, A., swear that you will, according to your best abilities, accurately and impartially record the proceedings of the court and the evidence given in the case in hearing: so help you God.'

"ART. 118. *A court of inquiry, and the recorder thereof, have the same power to summon and examine witnesses as is vested in courts-martial and the judge advocates thereof. Such witnesses shall take the same oath which is taken by witnesses before a court-martial, and the party accused shall be permitted to examine and cross-examine them, so as fully to investigate the circumstances of the question.*

"ART. 119. *A court of inquiry shall not give an opinion on the merits of the case inquired of unless specially ordered to do so.*

"ART. 120. *The proceedings of a court of inquiry must be authenticated by the signatures of the recorder and the president thereof, and delivered to the commanding officer.*

"ART. 121. *The proceedings of a court of inquiry may be admitted as evidence by a court-martial, in cases not capital, not tending to the dismissal of an officer: provided, that the circumstances are such that oral testimony cannot be obtained."*

Other Statutes. The Act of March 16, 1878, c. 37, w enables "the person charged" to testify as a witness before "courts-martial and courts of inquiry," is the only existing statute, (other than the Articles of war,) relating in terms to these courts. The provision of Sec. 1203, Rev. Sts., empowering "the judge advocate of a *military court*" to "appoint a reporter who shall record the proceedings of and testimony taken before such court," though not in terms applying to cases before courts of inquiry, has, in practice, been viewed as authorizing recorders of such courts to make such appointment. Sec. 1202, Rev. Sts., by which "every judge advocate of a *court-martial*" is empowered to issue process to compel the attendance of witnesses, applies in its terms still less than Sec. 1203 to recorders of courts of inquiry, and cannot, in the opinion of

ior, legally be extended to the latter.' A statute authorizing a restraint of the liberty of the citizen is to be strictly construed.

the British Law. The law in regard to the British court of inquiry—a body of inferior scope and powers as compared with the same court under our code—is mainly contained in the 123d and 124th Rules of Procedure.²

II. THE NATURE OF THE COURT.

Is Distinguished from a Court-Martial. The court of inquiry, so called, is really not a court at all. No criminal issue is tried before it, it arraigns no prisoner, receives no plea, makes no finding of guilt or innocence, awards no punishment. Its proceedings are not a trial, nor is its opinion, (when it expresses one,) a judgment. It does not administer justice, and is not sworn to do so but simply to "examine and inquire."³ It is thus not a court but rather a Board⁴—a board of investigation with the initial authority, (when expressly conferred upon it,) of pro-

The original statute,—a provision of the Act of March 3, 1863, § 5,—read: "Every judge advocate of a court-martial or court of inquiry." The words "or court of inquiry" were omitted by Congress in re-enacting the Revised Statutes. See Chapter XIII.

See also (in Appendix) Army Act § 72, and Rule of Procedure 124, which creates the special court of inquiry for the investigation of cases of unauthorized absence.

As to its nature, compare Adye, 83; Delafons, 46; Tytler, 343-346; Simmons § 334; Hough, 28; Harcourt, 173-4; Hughes, 160; Fonblanque, 137; Maltby, 137; De Hart, 273-4; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 475; DIGEST, 96-98, 427; Trial of Capt. D. Porter, (Navy,) p. 10. In the British Rules of Procedure, 123 (D,) it is said:—"A court of inquiry has no judicial power, and is in strictness not a court at all, but an assembly of persons directed by a commanding officer to collect evidence with respect to a transaction into which he cannot conveniently himself make inquiry."

Kennedy, 239; Coppée, 95; DIGEST, 96, note. In Simmons § 334; Harcourt, 174; and Griffiths, 133, it is styled a "*council*." In the late case of *The W. B. Chester's Owners v. U. S.*, 19 Ct. Cl. 683, the court said:—"A naval or military court of inquiry is not a judicial tribunal. It is constituted solely for the purpose of investigation, as an assistance to the President, the head of the Department, or the commanding officer, in determining whether or not any further proceeding, executive or judicial, ought to be taken in relation to the subject-matter of the inquiry. There is no issue joined between parties, and its proceedings are not judicial."

nouncing a conclusion upon the facts. But, as it is a sworn and as the witnesses before it are sworn and examined and examined as before courts-martial, it is a Board of a high nature in the nature of a court, and has thus come to be termed a court in the law military.

Its Character and Significance Illustrated. But a court of inquiry, though not a judicial body, is an instrument of no little scope and importance; its investigations are frequently much more extended and its conclusions more comprehensive than would be those of a court-martial in a similar case; and in individual instances, its results may be scarcely less final than it had the power to convict and sentence.¹ It is mainly, however, as contributions to history or to the annals of the Army that the researches of the courts under consideration are significant and valuable. Thus, among the courts of inquiry held in the army of which the reports have proved to be important papers, may be cited the following:—

That convened in the case of Major John André, Adjutant-General to the British Army, by General Washington as Commander-in-chief, on September 29, 1780, under the name of a "Board" and consisting of six Major Generals, [Greene, (the president), Lord Sterling, St. Clair, the Marquis de la Fayette, Howe, and the Baron de Steuben,] and eight Brigadier Generals, [Pauken Clinton, Knox, Glover, Patterson, Hand, Huntington, Starke,] with John Lawrence, Judge Advocate General, as recorder, and directed "to report a precise state of the case," and an "opinion of the light in which he (André) ought to be considered and the punishment that ought to be inflicted." The Court, after considering the evidence, reported a statement of facts found, with an opinion that the accused "ought to be considered as a spy from the enemy, and that, agreeable to the laws and usage of nations, he ought to suffer death:"²

That convened in 1791, by direction of the President, in

1. As where the report of the court has served as the ground and occasion for the summary dismissal of an officer. Tytler, 345-6; Prentiss, 211. And see cases in G. O. 15 of 1835; Do. of Nov. 23, 1835; Do. 183 of 1862; Do. 12, Dept. of the Tenn., 1863, (case of eight officers of the 109th Ills. Vols.) Compare also the result in the case of André (*post*), who was hung as a spy on the fourth day after the conclusion of the proceedings of the court of inquiry.

2. Proceedings published, Philadelphia, 1780; reprinted, Albany.

of Brig. Gen. Harmar, to inquire into his conduct as commanding officer on the expedition against the Miami Indians in 1811.

It was convened by President Jefferson in 1808, in the case of Gen. Jas. Wilkinson, to investigate the charge of his having treated with the Spanish government of Louisiana adversely to the United States. A trial by court-martial followed in 1811, in which he was fully acquitted.²

It was convened by an order of President Madison of Jan. 21, 1814, in the case of Brig. Gen. W. H. Winder, to inquire into his conduct as commanding officer of the U. S. forces during the British attack on Washington in August, 1814:

It was convened by President Jackson, at Frederick, Maryland, November, 1836, to inquire into "the causes of the failure of our campaigns in Florida against the Seminole Indians, under the command of Gens. Gaines and Scott," and also into the campaign against the hostile Creeks:³

It was convened by President Van Buren, at Knoxville, Tenn., September, 1837, "to examine into the transactions of Bvt. Gen. Wool, and others of his command, in reference to their conduct in the Cherokee country:"⁴

It was convened in Mexico, by G. O. 186, Hdqrs. of the Army, at the instance of Brig. Gen. Worth, to inquire into certain affairs connected with the capitulation of Puebla, in which he considered himself injured by Gen. Scott:

It was convened in 1848, in the City of Mexico, in the case of Gen. Pillow, which investigated charges preferred against the officer by Maj. Gen. Scott, in regard to official reports made after the former of the battles of Contreras, Churubusco, &c.:⁵

It was convened by the President at Washington, in September, 1862, "to investigate the circumstances of the abandonment of Fort Mifflin and the surrender of Harper's Ferry:"⁶

American State Papers, Military Affairs, vol. I, pp. 20-36.

G. O. of Feb. 14, 1812.

G. O. 13, of March 21, 1837; Doc. 224, Senate, 24th Congress, 2d session. And see American State Papers, Military Affairs, vol. VII, pp. 5-465.

G. O. 63, of Oct. 2, 1837; American State Papers, Military Affairs, vol. II, pp. 532-571.

G. O. 40, of July 2, 1848.

G. O. 183, of Nov. 8, 1862. This court was designated a "Military Commission."

That convened by the President, by Special Orders No. 354, of November 20, 1862, at Cincinnati, Ohio, "to investigate and report upon the operations of the army under the command of Maj. Gen. D. C. Buell, U. S. Vols., in Kentucky and Tennessee:"¹

That convened by Special Orders No. 350, Headquarters of the Army, 1862, to inquire into the conduct of Maj. Gen. McDowell as a general officer during the first year of the late war:²

That ordered by the President, by S. O. 217 of 1868, in the case of Brig. Gen. Dyer, Chief of Ordnance, which was charged especially with the duty of examining into certain accusations made against that officer in a report of a Committee of Congress:³

That ordered by the President, by S. O. 35 of 1874, in the case of Brig. Gen. Howard, under the provisions of a Joint Resolution of Congress of Feb. 13, 1874, and directed, as required by the Resolution, "to fully investigate" certain indicated charges against said officer, "and to report their opinion, as well upon moral as upon technical and legal responsibility for such offences, if any, as may be discovered:"⁴

That ordered by the President, by S. O. 277 of 1879, in the case of Lieut. Col. Warren, Corps of Engineers, 'for the purpose of inquiring into his conduct as major general commanding the 5th Army Corps, at the battle of Five Forks, Virginia, on April 1, 1865, and into the operations of his command on that day and the day previous :'⁵

That convened by direction of the President, by S. O. 241, of October 31, 1883, "to investigate the organization and fitting out of the Greely relief expedition party, transported by the steam Proteus :"⁶

That convened by direction of the President by S. O. 93 of 1884, to investigate certain charges, preferred by a civilian, A. Bateman, against Brig. Gen. D. G. Swaim, Judge Advocate General.

1. The proceedings were never promulgated in Orders.

2. Rebellion Record, Series I, Vol. XII, Part I, pp. 36 to 332.

3. G. O. 51, of May 15, 1869. Proceedings printed at Govt. Printing Office, 1869.

4. G. O. 75 of 1874; Proceedings printed at Govt. Printing Office, 1874.

5. G. O. 132 of 1882; Proceedings printed at Govt. Printing Office, 1883.

6. "Proceedings of the 'Proteus' Court of Inquiry on the Greely Relief Expedition." Govt. Printing Office, 1884.

tal of the Army, the report of which formed the basis of the subsequent court-martial proceedings published in G. C. M. O. of 1885.¹

III. ITS CONSTITUTION.

Authority of Commanding Officer and President respectively. It is provided, as has been seen, in Art. 115 that—

. The proceedings of the court of inquiry are contained in a volume published at the Govt. Printing Office, 1884.

Among other important courts of inquiry in the army may be mentioned those in the following cases:—Case of Lieut. Lane, charged with assaulting a member of Congress. (G. O. 15 of 1835.) Case of Private Lap, involving a construction of the present Thirtieth Article. (G. O. 13 of 1843.) Case of Capt. P. S. Cooke, relating to protection given traders in Texas. (G. O. 6 of 1844.) Case of Ast. Surg. Byrne, relating to a collision between him and Surgeon General Lawson. (G. O. 42 of 1849.) Case of Col. D. S. Miles, charged with misconduct at the battle of Bull Run. (G. O. 42, Army of the Potomac, 1861.) Cases of a Colonel and a Captain of Vols., charged with misconduct at the same battle. (G. O. 30, Dept. of N. E. Va., 1861.) Case of Brig. Gen. Martindale— inquiry into a charge preferred against him by Maj. Gen. Porter. (G. O. 178 of 1862.) Case of the burning of the steamer Ruth. (G. O. 344 of 1863.) Cases of certain corps, &c., commanders, as to their conduct at the battles of Sept. 19th and 20th, 1863. (Court ordered in G. O. 322 of 1863. Result not promulgated.) Case of members of the 109th Ills. Inf., charged with disloyalty. (G. O. 12, Dept. of Tenn., 1863.) Cases of Col. A. A. Gibson, 2d Pa. Arty., and Col. C. M. Alexander, 2d Dist. Ill. Vols., as to details of the command and discipline of their regiments, &c. (G. O. 22, 139, Dept. of Washington, 1864.) Case of an inquiry into the transactions of the commanding officer in charge of the Gualpai Indians in Arizona in 1874-5. (G. O. 6 of 1876.) Case of Lt. Col. Eddy and Capt. Martin, Quartermaster Dept., as to the administration of the Q. M. Depot at San Francisco, and certain frauds committed therein. (G. O. 10 of 1877.) Case of Major Reno—as to his conduct at the battle of Little Big Horn River, on June 25th and 26th, 1876. (G. O. 17 of 1879.) Case of an inquiry instituted on the application of Col. E. A. Carr, as to a hostile expedition against Apache Indians in August, 1881. (G. O. 125 of 1882.) Also courts of inquiry held in the cases of officers charged with the shooting, &c., and killing of mutinous or insubordinate inferiors, mostly in time of war, and of which conclusions are published in the following Orders:—G. O. 29, Dept. of N. E. Va., 1861; Do. 46, Army of the Potomac, 1862; Do. 30, 1st Div., 1862; Do. 5, Dept. of N. Mexico, 1863; Do. 76, Dept. of W. Va., 1864; Do. 20, Dept. of the Platte, 1871. With which see Brien, 76, as to case of Col. Parrish, Florida, 1836. Other courts of inquiry than those here specified will be noticed in the course of the chapter. Proceedings of important Courts of Inquiry in the Confederate States army are published in G. O. 19, A. & I. G. O., Richmond, 1861; Do. 28, 108, Id., 1862; Do. 81, 152, Id., 1863.

"A court of inquiry may be ordered by the President or by any commanding officer," but, for a certain reason stated,¹ *"shall never be ordered by a commanding officer except upon a demand by the officer or soldier whose conduct is to be inquired of."*

The comprehensive designation—"any commanding officer"² indicates that the authority to constitute courts of inquiry is not necessarily restricted, as has sometimes been supposed,³ to commanders who would be authorized to convene courts-martial in the same cases, but properly includes any and every 'commanding officer,' as the term is understood in the service;⁴ the power conferred being thus made incident to distinctive command as such. Thus the commander of a district, post, regiment, or independent company or detachment, may order this court with the same legality as may the commander of a department or army. The exercise, however, of such authority on the part of an inferior commander, or in a case of a soldier, is of rare occurrence in our service.⁵

The authority, however, of the commanding officer is not unqualified, but subject to the limitation prescribed in the last clause of the Article; it can be exercised only conditionally upon the court being 'demanded' by the interested party. It is the President alone whose authority under the Article is absolute, and he may avail himself of this authority either by himself convening the court in Orders from the War Department, or by directing the same to be convened by a military commander.

Discretion of Convening Official. But the exercise of the authority, whether absolute or conditional, is discretionary. Neither the President nor a commanding officer is *obliged* to order the court under any circumstances; the question whether or not

1. In VIII Opins. 342, Atty. Gen. Cushing comments forcibly on the part of the Article, concluding with the expression of opinion that "the reflection on officers of the army" contained in it is "unjust and out of place."

2. A similar designation is employed in the British law. Rules of Procedure, 123.

3. G. O. 78 of 1880.

4. For a definition of this term, see Chapter IX—"By whom and by whom is to be imposed."

5. DIGEST, 97. The proceedings of a comparatively recent court of inquiry in the case of an enlisted man, charged with killing a public enemy by hard riding, are published in G. O. 27, Dept. of Cal., 1867.

court shall be ordered in a particular case being one to be determined, not merely by the wishes of the aggrieved party, but so and mainly by such considerations of expediency or justice may address themselves to the superior. The word "demand," employed in the Article, does not imply a right on the part of the officer or soldier, but is to be construed as synonymous with *requested or applied for*. It is optional, therefore, with a commanding officer to refuse the application; but, in the event of such refusal, the party, if not satisfied, may appeal to higher authority, as in any other case of an official request not granted by immediate commander. Applications for courts of inquiry in fact not unfrequently refused, on the ground that to order the same would be opposed to the interests of the service.

The Convening Order, &c. The *form* of constituting a court of inquiry is by a General or Special Order, similar to that employed for ordering a court-martial and detailing the members; the only difference being that, in lieu of a reference to a trial or trials to be had, the Order specifies a charge, subject, or question to be investigated, and further directs either that the court shall report the facts alone, or the facts with its opinion thereon,—with such additional orders or instructions, if any, as it may be deemed proper to subjoin. At any subsequent state of the inquiry, a supplemental Order may be issued by the convening authority, removing a member, detailing a new member or recorder,¹ adding or modifying the instructions originally given,² changing the time or place of meeting, &c.

IV. ITS COMPOSITION.

Art. 116. This Article provides that: "*A court of inquiry shall consist of one or more officers, not exceeding three.*" As to the word "Officers"—what has been said in the Chapter on the Composition of General Courts-Martial, in construing the same word as employed in Art. 75, will be for the most part applicable here.

Number of Members. A detail for the court of less than three commissioned officers has been of the rarest occurrence in

"It is not absolutely necessary that the same members should go through the whole of the inquiry." Harcourt, 174. And see Simmons De Hart, 277, note; Harwood, 161.
see Coppée, 98.

our service.' In a few cases indeed—as in the case of the court convened upon the application of Gen. Warren—a court originally composed of three members has been reduced to two in the course of its investigation, and has gone on and concluded that number. In the case of André, the court, (convened by the enactment of the Article fixing the number,) was, as has been seen, composed of fourteen members. In the recent case of Howard, above noticed, it was specially provided in the Resolution that the court should “consist of not less than seven officers,” and it was in fact constituted with seven members.

Rank of Members. On this point the law is silent. Article 79, in providing that “no officer shall, when it can be avoided, be tried by officers inferior to him in rank,” applies only to courts-martial. Its injunction, however, will naturally and properly be observed in composing courts of inquiry, as the exigencies of the service will permit.

V. ITS FUNCTION.

In what it Consists. The function of the court of inquiry in our service appears from Arts. 115 and 119. In the former the general purpose is indicated to be—“*to examine into the nature of any transaction of, or accusation or imputation against, any officer or soldier.*” By the latter, it is required to “*give an opinion on the merits of the case,*” when “*specially ordered to do so.*”

The Investigation. The subjects of investigation contemplated by the Article are of two general descriptions:—*transactions* of officers or soldiers, a comprehensive term which includes any acts whatever, though commonly confined to acts of a supposed questionable or exceptional character; and *accusations or imputations*, that is to say charges of crime or misconduct, either direct and specific, or indirect and informal, and proceeding from any competent or respectable source. More particu-

1. A court of inquiry with but *one* member is convened by G. O. 1837.

2. The British law simply provides that the court “may consist of any number” of officers, (Rules of Procedure, 123;) but the number has generally been three or five. In the Inquiry upon the Cintra Convention, in 1808, and also in the case of Col. Home, (*Home v. Bentinck*, Brod. & Bing., 131,) the number was seven.

ever, there are three¹ principal uses and purposes for which investigations by courts of inquiry are resorted to in practice, as follows:—

1. *For determining whether there should be a trial court-martial in a particular instance.* As where suggestions have been made, or circumstances of a criminal character have been reported, against a certain military person; where, a crime or disorder having apparently been committed several military persons, it may be doubtful what particular individual or individuals may be implicated or punishable;—in such cases a court of inquiry may often profitably be convened in such directions to report all the facts, and, (as is generally required,) to express also an opinion whether or not a court-martial should be ordered for the trial of the person or persons accused or charged. The court of inquiry, when acting in this capacity, has been frequently compared to a grand jury;² but, as the party whose conduct is under investigation may be present in person, and be heard in his defence, at its sessions, and its proceedings may be and generally are public, the analogy indicated is by no means complete.³

2. *For the purpose simply of informing and advising the commanding official.* These courts are also employed to investigate cases, which appear to call, not for trial by court-martial, but for some other military or administrative action, and in which the testimony is so multifarious, complicated, or conflicting that a formal inquiry is needed for the purpose of ascertaining and reporting what are the actual facts, and thus reliably informing the President or Commander, and assisting his judgment. This, with or without an opinion—as he may direct—as to the bearing of the facts upon the discipline of the service, the rights or liabilities of individuals, &c.⁴ In cases indeed where but a brief investigation will be sufficient, the same is not unfrequently done through an ordinary board detailed for the purpose, or

1. See VI Opins. At. Gen., 239.

2. See Adye, 54, 172; 1 McArthur, 108; Tytler, 223, 340; Hough, 711; Undergast, 208, 211; Clode, M. L., 196–198; Maltby, 136; De Hart, 120; 11 Opins. At. Gen., 347.

3. DIGEST, 97; McNaghten, 176–7.

4. See Tytler, 343; Simmons § 334; Kennedy v. 11, 242; VIII Id., 341.

through the judge advocate or inspector general of the command. It is only for such important investigations of this class as involve the taking of a mass of testimony and the giving of a full hearing to the officer, (or soldier,) whose acts have given rise to the proceeding, that a court of inquiry is, in general, ordered.

3. For the vindication of character or conduct.

Instrumentality is also not unfrequently resorted to, as a species of *court of honor*, for the exculpation or justification of an officer (or soldier,) whose reputation or action has been seriously assailed or injuriously criticized in some official report or authoritative publication, or who has been severely rebuked or censured by a military superior, or who deems himself to have been otherwise aggrieved in his military capacity. In such cases the court is usually applied for by the party himself according to the provision of Art. 115.² Though the primary object of the inquiry is vindication, the result may indeed be quite the reverse.

It is to be remarked that the several objects above indicated are not necessarily kept distinct and separate in practice, but where the circumstances make it proper, be combined in the investigation ordered.

The investigation not to be diverted to foreign matters.

Though considerable latitude is to be conceded to the court in its inquiry, it will not be warranted in examining a subject quite distinct from that which it has been directed to investigate. Still less where it has been ordered to investigate certain charges, will it be justified in taking into consideration *other* charges against the same person or any charges against a *different* person.¹

1. "Thus, a court of inquiry may have in charge a comprehensive subject, such as the cause of the loss of a battle, the conduct of a particular corps or ship in a combat or engagement, the general condition of some administrative branch of the service, and other matters of this nature." VIII Opins. At. Gen., 341. And see VI Id., 242; *Simmons* § 334.

2. Instances may occur where two officers who have become involved in controversy may each apply for a court of inquiry in regard to the same transaction. In such cases the court, if convened, will practically in the words of Williamson, (2 Mil. Ar., 132,) 'sit as a court of arbitration between the contending parties, the decision of which they have consented to abide by.'

3. See Benét, 230.

To be confined to cases of persons in the army. The term "officer or soldier," employed in the Article, clearly means one who is an officer or soldier of the army at the time the court is ordered.¹ Transactions of or accusations against persons who have been members of the army, but who have left it and become civilians, while the same may be indirectly involved in an investigation, are not *per se* legitimate subjects for direct inquiry by this court, even though the inquiry be limited to their acts and conduct while in the army.²

Not to be affected by the statute of limitations. The statutory statute of limitations—Art. 103—applies only to proceedings before courts-martial. There is no legal obstacle, therefore, to a court of inquiry taking cognizance of a particular transaction or matter of accusation dating back more than two years prior to the ordering of such court, and it may accordingly extend its examination to acts and occurrences of the past without regard to the period which has since elapsed.³ A peculiar advantage of these courts over courts-martial is that they are empowered to investigate a series of acts or course of conduct—such as the administration of an office, the execution of a special trust, the management of an expedition or a campaign, the keeping of a continued account of receipts and disbursements, &c., embracing, in their relations, a considerable number of years, or any definite period. While in practice these courts will rarely be called upon to go into transactions remote in time, it is yet the fact that some of the most conspicuous instances in which courts of inquiry have been resorted to in this country have been cases in which a trial by court-martial was held to be barred by the

1. Thus a court of inquiry could not legally be ordered to investigate charges against a contract surgeon. DIGEST, 97.

2. G. O. 50, Mil. Div. of West Miss., 1864, are published the proceedings of a body, in form a court of inquiry, but designated a "court of war," by which was investigated the question whether a brigadier general commanding the enemy's forces at Fort Morgan, Ala., had violated the laws of war in connection with the surrender of that post.

3. DIGEST, 96-7.

4. G. O. 24 of 1829; DIGEST, 88; VI Opins. At Gen., 239; VIII Id., 10; Macomb, 94; Harwood, 168; Benét, 183-5. And see Debate in Senate on case of Gen. Howard, Cong. Rec., 1874, No. 40, pp. 36-8. De Witt, (p. 281-3,) misapprehends the law on this point; as did also the court of inquiry in Ast. Surg. Byrne's Case, (G. O. 42 of 1849,) and in Alexander's Case, (G. O. 139, Dept. of Washington, 1864.)

lapse of the statutory period, and a court of inquiry remains only means by which the facts could be satisfactorily investigated or the person vindicated or the reverse.¹

The Opinion — Art. 119. In view of the positive terms of this Article, the court, unless expressly required to give an opinion, could scarcely properly make even a recommendation or suggestion as to the merits of the case, since the same general principle involves a certain measure of opinion.

As required and rendered. The opinion required of a court of inquiry is, in general, as already indicated, an opinion upon the facts as developed by the investigation, whether, upon the facts as developed by the investigation, a particular officer or soldier, or any officer or soldier, should be brought to trial by court-martial; or whether any action, if any what, action is called for by the interests of the service is otherwise desirable to be taken. The court may be required to furnish separate opinions upon several different points in the case,² and also to give its *reasons* for its opinions.³ If ordered to render an opinion upon a specific subject, or to obtain particular effect, it should confine itself strictly to that subject; it cannot assume to express an opinion upon a different matter, or to a different effect without transcending its authority and being liable to censure.⁵

Dissenting opinions. Though it is *the court* which is required to give an opinion; *i. e.*, though it is contemplated that the opinion given shall be the opinion of the court; yet as the court of a court of inquiry is not a *judgment*, it is not deemed necessary that the same, as rendered, should be unanimous, single, nor is the fact that the majority concur in a certain opinion regarded as precluding, (as in a case of a court-martial,) the expression of their dissent by the minority. When a joint

1. In the cases both of Gen. Dyer and Gen. Howard, the charges dated back beyond the period of the statutory limitation.

2. See instances of opinions thus dispersed, in G. O. 13 of 1840 of 1848; Do. 42 of 1849.

3. As in the case of the Inquiry in regard to the Proteus explosion, S. O. 241 of 1883.

4. DIGEST, 99.

5. Hough, (A.) 8; Harcourt, 174; Maccomb, 93; O'Brien, Hart, 277; Coppée, 98.

be united in by all the members, dissenting opinions must be none at all; and in a case of dissent, it is not only but desirable for the instruction of the reviewing officer, the different conclusions arrived at by the different members be fully reported in the record.¹ But dissent of course is to be used where practicable, and the members will always prefer to concur when they can do so without a sacrifice of just and able views.

Dissenting remarks. Though the court may not volunteer an opinion if not called for, it may, in connection with its opinion or statement of facts, *remark* upon matters extraneous to the subject of litigation, but legitimately within its observation, for the purpose of bringing the same to the attention of the reviewing officer. Thus, for example, as disrespectful or otherwise irregular conduct on the part of the accused or accuser, or on the part of the witness.²

VI. THE RECORDER.

Province and Duties. Although it is provided in Art. 101—“*A court of inquiry shall consist of*” certain officers, including a *recorder*,”³ the special use and purpose of this officer is as follows, *viz.*: “*to reduce the proceedings and evidence to*

The very disagreement indeed of intelligent minds is a material and important fact in the case, and one of which the reviewing authority is entitled to have the advantage in his consideration of and action upon the case.” DIGEST, 99.

In *Inquiry on the Cintra Convention*, in 1808, the members who were of a different opinion from the majority” were *required* “to record in the proceedings their reasons for such dissent,” and three of the members accordingly did so. Simmons § 339, and note; Hough, (A.) the last author, (Precedents, 642,) cites another case in which two of five members of a court of inquiry gave dissenting opinions.

O'Brien, 291, in holding dissenting opinions not permissible, relies upon a supposed analogy between the judgment of a court-martial and the conclusion of a court of inquiry, which does not exist in law.

Hough, 29; DIGEST, 99. And see G. O. 13 of 1837, as to the animadversions of the court of inquiry upon the reprehensible language used by each other by Gens. Gaines and Scott, the two officers concerned, the one in his address to the court, and the other in his communications which were put in evidence.

The Articles of the late code of 1806, (in force prior to June 22, 1862) termed this officer “judge advocate,” and “judge advocate or recorder.” The “judge advocate” of the court of inquiry in Gen. Dyer's

writing." So, in Art. 117, while it is provided that the members of the court shall be sworn to "*examine and inquire,*" the recorder is required to be separately sworn to "*accurately and impartially record the proceedings of the court and the evidence.*" Thus, like the judge advocate of a court-martial, the recorder is clearly distinguished from the members, and the provision cited of Art. 116 has never been construed in practice as making him a part of the court.

He is further assimilated to the judge advocate in that he is empowered and required by Art. 117 to qualify the members by administering to them the prescribed form of oath; that by Art. 118, he is authorized to summon and examine witnesses; and that, by Art. 120, he is required to authenticate, with the president, the completed proceedings.

The principal regular *duties* of the recorder are—to keep the record of the court; to summon the witnesses, including those desired by the accused to be summoned, and to conduct in the main their examination under oath. He also assists the court in procuring such documentary or written evidence as may be required; but as Art. 91, relating to *depositions*, evidently contemplates the taking of the same mainly at least for use on trials by courts-martial, he will comparatively rarely be called upon to obtain testimony in this form.

Not a Prosecutor or Law-Officer. The recorder, however, unlike the judge advocate, is not a prosecuting officer, since the investigation is not a trial, nor will he properly assume the *rôle* or manner of a prosecutor. Further, he is not invested, like the judge advocate, with the capacity of adviser to the court. A court of inquiry, having confidence in the legal ability of its recorder, may indeed properly call upon him to assist it in examining the law applicable to the case before it, but this is no *duty* of a recorder; moreover it will not often come within the province of a court of inquiry to pass upon questions of law of a difficult or unfamiliar character.'

case, (convened in 1868,) was authorized, in a Special Order from the War Department, to appoint an "assistant judge advocate." *Published Record*, p. 1.

1. In the exceptional case, however, of Gen. Howard, already noticed, the court was specifically required to express an opinion not only upon the "moral" but upon the "technical and legal responsibility" of the officer.

VII. THE PROCEDURE.

The Meeting of the Court—Attendance of Parties.

The court assembles at the place and time named in the Order convening it. If all the members do not attend on the first day, it is customary for the others to adjourn from day to day till all are present, with the recorder.

The "party accused" is entitled, by Art. 118, to be present so as to take part in the examination of the witnesses, and in justice he is permitted to be, and generally is, present from the beginning and throughout the proceedings,¹ though his presence is not at any stage obligatory or essential. He is sometimes indeed, though rarely, *ordered* to be present,² and in such case must attend, though his absence may not affect the authority of the court to proceed.

To place the accused party in *arrest* prior to the convening of the court, or pending its continuance, would be opposed to the present usage of the service, and scarcely justified except in an extreme case.³

The party accused, or "whose conduct is to be inquired of," is also permitted to be accompanied and assisted by *counsel* if he desires it;⁴ and a similar privilege is properly extended to an officer whose conduct will be materially *involved* in the inquiry.⁵ The *accuser*, where there is one, has also generally been allowed to be present⁶ and with his counsel.⁷

1. He should properly be furnished with copies of the convening Order, and other Orders if any, fixing or changing the time or place of the meeting of the court.

2. Simmons § 335; Hough, 25, 437; James, 317; De Hart, 275. The court has no power to command his obedience, but the commanding officer only. Simmons § 334; Griffiths, 133.

3. Hough, (A.) 8; Griffiths, 134; De Hart, 279; Lee, 83. So, in the early days, the officer need not be put under suspension. Harwood, 163. The case of André was of course an exception: at the end of the proceedings, the record states that he was "remanded into custody." In the early case of Major Wylls, of our own army, Congress, in providing for a court of inquiry, expressly directed that he be "arrested and remain in custody" till it should further order, and, at the end of the proceedings, it directed that he be "released from his arrest." IV Journals, 625, 676.

4. See De Hart, 276; Benét, 182; Coppée, 99; Harwood, 163.

5. Proteus Court of Inquiry, pp. 2, 3.

6. Kennedy, 240; Hough, (A.) 8; De Hart, 276; Benét, 181. Gen. Bennett, as accuser, attended the court of inquiry in the case of Gen. Pillow, Mexico, in 1848.

7. De Hart, 276. Benét, 181-2; Coppée, 98. In Gen. Dyer's Case,

Challenge of Members. The full court being in attendance the convening Order is read, and the accused, or interested party is afforded the same opportunity of challenge as upon a trial by court-martial. To this privilege indeed he is not legally entitled since, by the terms of Art. 88, it is only "members of a court-martial" who "may be challenged by a prisoner." In the interests of justice, however, to the party, and with a view to an impartial inquiry, such privilege is now always extended in our service.

In the special case of Gen. Howard, it was, as has been expressly provided by Congress that the accused should be *allowed the same right of challenge as allowed by law in trial by court-martial;*" but this provision was only declaratory of existing practice as established by usage, and was unnecessary to secure the privilege to the party.*

Wherever the opportunity of challenge is availed of, the proceedings had will be similar to those before courts-martial in other cases, as fully set forth in Chapter XIV. If a challenge to a court of three members is allowed, it will in general be better to adjourn and await the action of the convening authority than to sit as a court of two members, though legal, does not permit a majority vote in a case of disagreement.

Organization,ittings, &c.—Administering of oath. Such objections to members as have been made, (if being disposed of, the members and recorder are sworn according to the form and in the manner set forth in Art. 117.

Obligation of secrecy. The oath, it may be remarked, imposes upon neither members nor recorder any obligation of secrecy similar to that enjoined by their oath upon the members of a court-martial judge advocate of a court-martial; so that the opinion of the members may be divulged without any violation of the oath as prescribed. But, in law, the opinion of a court of inquiry is assimilated to the judgment of a court-martial in that it is a confidential and privileged official communication addressed to the convening authority.

as also in Gen. Swaim's, the counsel of the accusers constantly attended and took upon themselves the *onus* of making good the charges.

1. See Macomb, 94; O'Brien, 292; De Hart, 278; Benét, 181; Cresswell, 98; Harwood, 163. The privilege was recognized as far back as 1837 in the case of Gens. Scott and Gaines in 1837.

2. This was admitted in the debate in both Houses of Congress. Rec., Nos. 38 and 40, 1874.

intended as a basis for his action alone, and it is readily perceived that a disclosure of such opinion before such action was taken might, (especially in a case where the court had been sitting with closed doors,) seriously embarrass the commander or President in his disposition of the case, and perhaps materially prejudice the interests of the accused party in the event of a trial being ordered.¹ It has therefore been held both by English and American writers² to be highly unmilitary and indecorous for the members or judge advocate of a court of inquiry to discover, either of the accused or other person, the opinion or recommendation of the court, without the authority of the convening official or before the same is published in orders.

After the oaths having been administered, the court is organized for *inquiry*.

Whether session to be open or closed. Before, however, entering upon the investigation, a question generally to be decided is, whether the court shall sit with open or closed doors. Courts of inquiry, instituted as they are to assist by their researches the judgment of the President or the military commander, and receiving reports addressed as confidential communications to his attention, would appear from their very nature and purpose to properly close courts.³ Admission to them, in the absence of statutory regulation on the subject, is declared to be, strictly, not right.⁴ But from an early period these courts, even in England, have sometimes been open;⁵ and, in *our* law, Art. 118 provides for the admission of the accused and the witnesses, while,

Home v. Bentinck, 2 Brod. & Bing., 130, 164; Hough, 26; Clode, M. L., 199; De Hart, 280; Benét, 182; Harwood, 168.

See authorities cited in last note; also Hough, (P.) 653; Hughes, 1; O'Brien, 291.

"These courts being held for the purpose of obtaining information upon which an ulterior decision is to depend, are necessarily close courts." Kennedy, 240. "All courts of inquiry are inherently close courts." Hough, (P.) 645. And see Simmons § 337; Clode, M. L., Benét, 182; VIII Opins. At. Gen., 346.

"Defendants generally, and auditors and spectators occasionally, access by grace and not of right." Hough, (P.) 645. And see authorities cited in last note.

The Inquiry on the Cintra Convention was closed for the first two

On the third day it was opened, a minute being made in the minutes that—"the guard being withdrawn, strangers are allowed

See Hough, (A.) 11.

by custom, the accuser,¹ the counsel of both parties,² and necessary clerks are permitted to be present. From this it is a short step to admit the public, and the result is that, in military courts of inquiry, unless otherwise instructed in Orders, are generally held as open courts.³ It is indeed always the proper duty of the convening authority to direct, in the convening a supplemental Order, whether the court shall be open or closed. But if—as is usually the case—the Orders are silent on this subject, the court is empowered to decide the point for itself by its own action, or, without raising the question, to go on sitting with open doors from the beginning.⁴ In a case where the result of the inquiry, as it is developed in the course of the testimony, is such as to make it improper or impolitic that the court, originally convened with open doors, should continue to be so, the doors will properly be closed for the rest of the investigation,⁵ all persons being excluded except those entitled or privileged by law or usage to be present, and witnesses being admitted separately.⁶ Of course, upon the court's deliberation, or where it is desired to consider without putting some interlocutory question, the court, if open, is cleared, and the doors are closed, in the same manner as in the case of a martial.⁸

Hours of session. A court of inquiry, (in the absence of special instructions on the subject,) may sit 'without regular hours,' beginning and ending its daily sessions at such hours as may be convenient for itself and the parties interested.⁹

1. See *ante*, p. 745.

2. See *ante*, p. 745.

3. Macomb, 92; O'Brien, 291; De Hart, 276; Harwood, 163; Opins. At. Gen., 346; Lee, 82; DIGEST, 97. In the recent case of Swaim, the court, (p. 27,) voted to sit with open doors.

4. Hough, (A.) 11; Do., (P.) 639; Simmons § 339. Griffiths v. De Hart, 276; VIII Opins. At. Gen., 229.

5. See De Hart, 276; Benét, 182; Coppée, 99; Harwood, 163.

6. See Hough, 26; Macomb, 92; De Hart, 276; Harwood, 163; Opins. At. Gen., 347.

7. Hough, (P.) 640.

8. "Generally the court sits with open doors except when deliberating and voting." O'Brien, 291.

9. De Hart, 279; Benét, 182; Coppée, 99. In this connection, Hough (Practice,) 137, observes—"Though Sunday is not a day for sitting, still there may arise cases requiring a court to sit on Sunday."

vision of Art. 94 prescribing certain fixed hours applies only "proceedings of *trials*."

Adjournments. The granting of "*continuances*," as such, is, Art. 93, in substance restricted to occasions of trials before courts-martial. A court of inquiry, however, may, from time to time during an investigation, grant or take such adjournments may be expedient and reasonable.¹

Keeping of order—Contempt. The presiding officer acts as the organ of the court, and keeps order as in the case of a court-martial. But courts of inquiry, having no original judicial authority, and not being embraced within the description of Art. 93, which applies in terms only to courts-martial and cannot, as a general statute, be enlarged by implication, are not empowered to punish, as for a contempt, persons guilty of disrespect, disorder, or violence in their presence.² Where, therefore, witnesses or others misbehave at a session of a court of inquiry, while the court may cause them to be removed if desirable, it can procure them to be punished only by reporting the case to the convening authority or local commander, or to the civil authorities as the case may be.³ In the event of a trial of the offender, the members and recorder, or any of them, will properly testify as prosecuting witnesses.⁴

The Investigation and Evidence—*Entertainment of charges, reports, &c.* Upon its organization, the court commonly proceeds at once to the matter of the inquiry, which it has been sworn to make truly and impartially "according to the evidence." Not unfrequently, as a starting point of the investigation, reports, correspondence, books, &c., or charges—which will properly be specific, but need not be in a technical form⁵—are

1. In the Order convening the court of inquiry in the case of Gen. Bull, the court was specially authorized to "adjourn from place to place as may be desirable, for the convenience of taking testimony."

2. See DIGEST, 98, and note. The law on this point is misapprehended by De Hart, (p. 279,) and Benét, p. 182.

3. As to witnesses, Clode, (M. L., 198,) correctly says: "the court has no power to punish them for contumacy or silence."

4. See Delafons, 53-4; Hough, (A.) 6.

5. See Hough, (A.) 8; Maltby, 137; De Hart, 280; also G. O. 42 of 49, (case of Ast. Surg. Byrne,) where there were ten specific charges referred in the form of statements of fact. It is observed by Maltby:—

laid before the court, either as referred to it directly by the convening authority, or furnished to and introduced by the recorder. Even though formal charges be offered, there is made, as indicated, no *plea*. The accused, however, may take occasion—if such be the fact—that he admits certain allegations thus simplifying the investigation.¹

Taking of testimony. The evidence is now entered and, before courts of inquiry, the documentary evidence is often very considerable. The examination of the witness is conducted substantially as before courts-martial;—the witness availing himself, so far as desired, of the right recognized in 118 to examine and cross-examine, by introducing with his own, and interrogating, impeaching, or objecting to questions and testimony offered by the recorder; and the recorder of the court putting such questions as may be deemed desirable for the eliciting of the facts. Under the Act of March 3, c. 37, the accused, if he so elects, may take the stand as a witness, subject to cross-examination.² The inquiry not being a judicial proceeding, the court is not called upon to enforce the law of evidence so strictly as would be, in general, in a court-martial;³ but founded as such rules commonly are upon common sense as well as logic, it will ordinarily be safest and most equitable to observe them.⁴

Independently of his examination as a witness, the accused may need hardly be remarked—is not now subject, as formerly, to be interrogated by the court, or called upon for an explanation.

Closing argument. Upon the conclusion, however, of the testimony, the accused, (after reasonable time for preparation)

“A complainant is not bound to exhibit the same charges before a court-martial which he produced to the court of inquiry.” Formal charges have sometimes been preferred as the basis of the investigation in cases in G. O. 65, 88, Fifth Mil. Dist., 1869.

1. See O'Brien, 291.

2. DIGEST, 482. And see Chapter XVIII.

3. Hough, (A.) 9; Kennedy, 240; Hughes, 162.

4. See D'Aguilar, 88; O'Brien, 291; De Hart, 332.

5. See Hough, (A.) 5, as to the procedure in the Inquiry on the Convention; also Inquiry in case of André. This practice, however, has long been discontinued, as liable to criminate and unjust. See 344; Adye, 81-2; Hughes, 162; Hough, (P.) 640; Simmons Coppée, 98.

sired,) may make, in his defence, such closing statement or argument as he may deem for his advantage.¹ The recorder, with the assent of the court, (for, not being prosecutor, he is, strictly, without *right* in the matter,) may thereupon present a summary of the evidence with such remarks and arguments as the facts may properly suggest. Except, however, in cases of unusual importance, while the accused or interested party commonly submits a written address, the recorder, unlike the judge advocate, does not in general formally reply.

Making up of report, &c., and record. The arguments, any, having been delivered, the court, if open, clears for deliberation in the same manner as a court-martial. The recorder alone remains with it, to assist it in recurring to the testimony and preparing its report. After such discussion as may be found profitable, the report is drawn up; the court, where elaboration is called for, taking such adjournments as may be found necessary before their work can be completed. Although the court has been simply required to examine into and communicate the facts, this duty—it has well been remarked²—is not duly performed by merely returning the proceedings with the testimony as taken from day to day, but a formal summary at least of the material evidence should properly be prepared and entered of record.

An *opinion*, if one has been required, will be added, and in such form and with such detail as may most fully and succinctly convey to the convening authority the conclusions of the court.³ As already indicated,—while a majority vote will properly govern in determining questions previously arising in the course of the proceedings, the minority are not obliged to yield to the majority in the expression of the *opinion*. Thus where the members are unable to unite in a single joint opinion, their dissenting or different opinions, duly subscribed, will be spread upon the record.

The completed record will then be authenticated, in the same form as the record of a court-martial, and as prescribed by Art.

1. Subject of course to the authority of the court to restrict a statement containing disrespectful or otherwise improper expressions. See Chapter XVII.

2. See Macomb, 92; O'Brien, 290-1; De Hart, 277-8.

3. Where formal charges have been investigated.

4. Sometimes been made. See case in G. O. (

5. Such a proceeding, however, is quite unsuited

120,¹ and thereupon transmitted to the commanding officer or the President.

VIII. ACTION ON THE PROCEEDINGS.

Discretion of the Reviewing Authority. This official, upon the receipt of the record from the court, may, in the absence of any statutory direction, take action thereon at his discretion. If an opinion be given, it is in no respect binding upon him, being in law merely a recommendation, to be approved or not as he may determine. If, for instance, it is to the effect that sufficient grounds exist for ordering a court-martial in the case, he may either proceed to order one, or may decide that no further proceedings are required. So, where any other measure is suggested, he may adopt the view of the court, or may resort to action quite different, or may take none whatever. If action be taken, it need not be confined to strictly military means or methods. Civil or criminal liabilities may be disclosed by the testimony which should properly become the subject of an official communication on the part of the reviewing officer, addressed, through the Secretary of War, to the Attorney General, or more directly to the local authorities, with a view to suit or prosecution.

Revision by the Court. If not satisfied with the investigation, or with the report or opinion, the reviewing official may re-assemble the court, in the same manner as a court-martial, and return the proceedings with directions, either to have the investigation pursued further and completed, or the report of the facts made more detailed and comprehensive, or the opinion expressed in terms more definite and unequivocal or more responsive to the original instructions, or to correct or supply some other error or defect.² The inquiry not being a trial but an investigation

1. A proper form, similar to that recommended for the record of a court-martial, is:—A true and complete Record. Attest: A. B., President: C. D., Recorder. Compare Chapter XXIII—"Authentication of Record." Formerly, all the members appear to have signed the record. In the case of André it was subscribed by all the fourteen members.

In connection with the subject of the making up of the record of a court of inquiry, the student is referred to Chapter XXIII on the subject of the Record of Courts-Martial.

2. It may here be noted that the class of errors affecting the *legality* of the proceedings, which may occur in records of courts-martial, are not known as such to records of courts of inquiry.

ely, the court may properly be required, upon revision, to hear witnesses or to take entirely new testimony, or it may do so of its own motion without orders in connection with the revision.

A court of inquiry would be chargeable with dereliction of duty which should refuse to pursue an investigation or complete report of facts, thus ordered to be perfected. Such a court, however, though it might be censured or severely criticized, could rarely be otherwise called to account for declining to modify its opinion—provided it were expressed in temperate and proper language.

Promulgation. The reviewing authority, having taken final action upon the report or opinion, proceeds, regularly, to publish, by General Order, in whole or in part, or in substance, the report of the court upon the subject of the inquiry, with the opinion (if any,) and the determination had or action taken thereon. In special considerations, however, of policy or justice, the President or Commander may, in his discretion, delay to publish, or omit altogether to publish,¹ the report, &c., or may publish the result in whole—as, for example, that it is determined that no further proceedings are called for in the case.²

IX. THE PROCEEDINGS AS EVIDENCE.

Before a Court-Martial. It is provided by Art. 121 that—*“the proceedings of a court of inquiry may be admitted as evidence by a court-martial, in cases not capital, nor extending to the dismissal of an officer: provided, that the circumstances are such that oral testimony cannot be obtained.”* By the term “proceedings” is evidently had in view chiefly the testimony; and the action contemplated doubtless was that of a trial by court-martial of a case which had previously been investigated by a court of inquiry. In such a case it could not prejudice the interests of justice, but the reverse, to admit in evidence the sworn testimony of witnesses who had recently testified before the court of inquiry whose personal attendance at the court-martial could not by

As was done with regard to the proceedings in the case of Gen. L., which, as noted *ante*, were never promulgated in Orders.

As in the case of the charges against Gen. Martindale. See G. O. of 1862.

reasonable diligence be secured. Indeed a resort to summary might be the only means of avoiding a failure of evidence. The admission of such evidence might also be advantageous on certain other occasions—as where, for example, an officer was brought to trial by court-martial on a charge of perjury in swearing as a witness before a previous court of inquiry. It was desirable to prove his testimony at the latter proceeding.

As to the cases *excepted* from the application of the Article “capital” cases and cases “extending to the dismissal of an officer,” it is to be said that by the former are meant cases of capital offences which, by the Articles of war, would be capital if found by the court, and, by the latter, cases of offences of officers for which the penalty of dismissal is mandatory upon conviction.*

It is to be remarked that the admission of evidence in the Article is an admission of evidence *on the merits* of the charge, *i. e.* in proof of the offence charged.³ Thus it was held by Advocate General Dunn that the proceedings of a court-martial would be admissible in evidence, irrespective of the fact that the charge was not proved, and in the cases excepted as well as in any other, where the object was, not to prove or disprove a charge, but to impeach the evidence of a witness on the trial by showing that he had made a different statement on oath before the court of inquiry.

The proceedings of the court of inquiry will properly be admitted in evidence before the court-martial either by the original record of the court of inquiry, or by a copy of the same certified by the Judge Advocate General, or other official in whose custody the original record is temporarily deposited.

Before a Civil Court. The question of the admissibility of the record of a court of inquiry at a trial before a civil court was determined in the negative in England by the well-known case of *Home v. Lord Bentinck*.⁵ This was an

1. As to the definition of the term “capital” as used in the Articles of war, see Chapter XX—“Death.”

2. See DIGEST, 99-100.

3. See DIGEST, 99; G. O. 33, Dept. of Arizona, 1871.

4. DIGEST, 100. And see this opinion published as approved by the President in G. C. M. O. 40 of 1880.

5. 2 Brod. & Bing. 130.

brought in the Court of King's Bench by a Lieut. Colonel of the British army, whose alleged misconduct had been investigated at a court of inquiry, against the president of the court, for a libel intended to be contained in the opinion. The plaintiff presented in evidence the original record of the court, which, upon objection by the defendant, was ruled out as inadmissible: a copy of the record was then offered with a similar result. Upon an appeal to the Court of Exchequer Chamber, these rulings were sustained on the ground that the opinion of the court constituted a privileged communication. Dallas, C. J., observed:—"What was the object in its very nature but a confidential communication, in consequence of a direction by the Commander-in-chief, for the formation of his own conscience in the exercise of his public duty." And he holds that—"upon the broad principle of state policy and public convenience, * * * these matters, secret by their natures and involving delicate inquiry and the names of persons, stand protected."¹

This ruling would be applicable to a similar case at American law. But in our military practice the results of the investigations of courts of inquiry are in the majority of cases promulgated in full, and in a case in which such a publication had been made, no report or opinion published could not be held to be a privileged communication, though the testimony or proceedings not published might still be so considered.

¹ The Chief Justice further holds, (p. 162,) that it would have been the duty of the court, considering that the document was a secret communication, not the property of the party holding it but of which he was a trustee on behalf of the public, to interpose and prevent its admission, even if no objection had been raised,—in the same manner, he adds, as witnesses "are not to be asked the names of those from whom they receive information as to frauds on the revenue." And with this case, see *Hewkins v. Lord Rokeby*, 8 Q. B. 255; Manual, 174, 176; also—generally—PART III, *post*.

CHAPTER XXV.

THE ARTICLES OF WAR SEPARATELY CONSIDERED.

The history and authority of our Code of Articles of War have been reviewed in a previous Chapter. Certain specific Articles to wit Arts. 63, 65 to 98, and 100 to 121, as also certain other statutes properly classed with the Articles, *viz.* Secs. 1203, 1230, 1361, 4824 and 4825, of the Revised Statutes have been sufficiently construed in connection with the various subjects already examined in this treatise. We now proceed to consider such of the remaining Articles (and kindred enactments) as are deemed to call for construction and remark.

Forms of CHARGES of the offences made punishable by several Articles will be given in the Appendix. It need here be said in general that the specification under any Article should not merely consist in a bald repetition of the phrase of the charge or of the name of the offence, but should set in full the particulars—words, acts and circumstances—involving the offence—Disrespectful conduct, Disobedience of Orders, Drunkenness, Desertion, Mutiny, Misbehaviour before the enemy, Breach of the Rules of the Land, Conduct unbecoming an officer or a gentleman, Conduct prejudicial to the good order and military discipline, or other offence the case may be—is alleged to have consisted in.

I. THE INTRODUCTORY SECTION.

The Code of Articles is prefaced, in the Revised Statutes, by the following general provision:

“SECTION 1342. *The Armies of the United States shall be governed by the following rules and articles. The word officer, as*

1. See Chapter X—“THE CHARGE.”

herein, shall be understood to designate commissioned officers; the word soldier shall be understood to include non-commissioned officers, musicians, artificers, and privates, and other enlisted men, and the convictions mentioned therein shall be understood to be convictions by court-martial."

Effect. Of this Section, the *first clause* is substantially identical with that which introduced the Articles of 1806; its original being found in the preliminary declaration of the two earlier codes of 1775 and 1776. The *second clause* is new, and was designed to set at rest the question, (which had been considerably discussed,) whether under the term "officer," as employed in the Articles, and particularly in the old 9th, (now 21st,) Article, non-commissioned officers could properly be held to be included.

It may be remarked that within the terms "officer" and "soldier," as here defined, are embraced all the purely military persons who are subject to the Articles of War and the jurisdiction of courts-martial, except only *Cadets*. This class, however, as a part of the Army,¹ are directly so subjected by the first and general clause of the Section, and indirectly by the operation of Sec. 1320, Rev. Sts., prescribing their oath.

II. THE FIRST ARTICLE.

[SUBSCRIBING OF ARTICLES.]

"ART. I. *Every officer now in the Army of the United States shall, within six months from the passing of this Act, and every officer hereafter appointed shall, before he enters upon the duties of his office, subscribe these rules and articles.*"

An Obsolete Provision. This provision, derived from a similar Article of the code of 1775, is now practically a dead letter, officers of the army being never required manually or otherwise to "subscribe" the Articles of war. This article may indeed be regarded as superseded in the existing law by Sec. 1757, Rev. Sts., which,—as enlarged by the Act of May 13, 1884,—prescribes an *oath of office*, to be taken alike by the civil, military and naval officers of the United States, in which the party

1. See Sec. 1094, Rev. Sts.

swears, among other things, that he will "well and faithfully discharge the duties of his office."¹

III. THE SECOND AND THIRD ARTICLES.

[ENLISTMENT.]

"ART. 2. *These rules and articles shall be read to every enlisted man at the time of, or within six days after, his enlistment, and he shall thereupon take an oath or affirmation, in the following form: 'I, A. B., do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America; that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies whomsoever; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to the rules and articles of war.'* This oath may be taken before any commissioned officer of the Army.

"ART. 3. *Every officer who knowingly enlists or musters into the military service any minor over the age of sixteen years without the written consent of his parents or guardians, or any minor under the age of sixteen years, or any insane or intoxicated persons, or any deserter from the military or naval service of the United States, or any person who has been convicted of any infamous criminal offence, shall, upon conviction, be dismissed from the service, or suffer such other punishment as a court-martial may direct.*"

SECOND ARTICLE.

Effect of the Article—The Oath. This Article is an incorporation of the old Art. 10 of 1806, (derived from Art. 1, Sec. III, of 1776,) with s. 11 of the Act of Aug. 3, 1861, c. 42.

It is quite clear from this Article, which is directory merely, that neither the reading of the Articles, nor the administering of the oath, is intended to constitute an *essential* part of an enlistment: it is indeed evidently contemplated that the enlistment may be complete without either, since both may come "after" it.

1. Formerly the officer's oath, as prescribed by the Act of Jan. 29, 1813, c. 16, s. 13, was the same as that administered to enlisted men. Forms of an oath of *allegiance* required to be taken by officers during the Revolutionary War are found in 1 Jour. Cong., 525; 2 Id., 427-8.

2. DIGEST, 1. The counter view, as indicated by O'Brien, (p. 66) and in *Tyler v. Pomeroy*, 8 Allen, 492, as to the construction of the

The oath here prescribed, however, is, *in practice*, administered upon enlistment, and, as incorporated in the formal enlistment paper or certificate in use in our service, is subscribed by the party enlisting.¹ As thus taken, it serves as material *evidence* that a contract of enlistment has been entered into.²

The Reading of the Articles of War. As the party is made to swear in the oath that he will obey orders "according to" such Articles, and as the above Article specifically directs that the Articles shall be read to him before the oath is administered, it is clear that the reading also, (though not a requisite,) will properly constitute a feature of the ceremony of enlistment.³ The Article not indicating by whom the reading is to be done, the duty will properly devolve upon the recruiting officer, who should either perform it himself, accompanying the reading with suitable explanations, or cause it to be performed by an intelligent non-commissioned officer.

Failure to comply with the injunction in regard to the reading of the Articles, (required also by Art. 128 to be repeated "once in every six months,") as constituting a ground for the mitigation of a sentence, has been noticed in Chapter XXI.

THIRD ARTICLE

Origin. This provision, which first appears as a separate Article of war in the code of 1874, is a compact condensation of the Acts of March 2, 1833, c. 68, s. 6, and March 3, 1863, c. 75, s. 1, (prohibiting the enlistment and service of persons convicted of felony or crime,) and the Acts of July 4, 1864, c. 237, s. 5, March 3, 1865, c. 79, s. 18, and May 15, 1872, c. 162, (prohibiting the enlisting, &c., of persons of the other classes specified in the Article.)

Article, (as expressed in the code of 1806,) is not concurred in. Of the present form, certainly, of the Article, the interpretation given in the text is the reasonable one.

1. Compare the description in Art. 4—"enlisted man, duly sworn." It is well said of this form of oath by O'Brien, (p. 86,) that it "contains brief synopsis of the whole duty of a soldier."

2. DIGEST, I. And see *post*—"Enlistment in general."

3. In all cases of *original* enlistment, the fact might well be specified, in the certificate of the recruiting officer on the enlistment paper, that the Articles of war had been read to and understood by the recruit—where such was the fact.

Construction—"Knowingly." As has been held by the Judge Advocate General,¹ it is not essential, to render an officer amenable under this Article, that it should be shown that, in enlisting a person, he had positive and absolute knowledge that he belonged to one of the designated classes. If from the appearance, manner, or statements of the party, or other facts previously communicated to the officer or developed in connection with the enlistment, it is reasonably inferable that the party is within one of the descriptions, the officer will in general properly be charged with the knowledge requisite to constitute him an offender.

"Musters into," &c. The term "*muster-in*," though sometimes confounded with *enlistment*, is only properly employed to designate the formal admission, (upon inspection, administration of the oath, &c.,) into the U. S. service, of militia or other State troops, or troops raised under State authority. The term is, strictly, without application to the army proper, into which persons are admitted only by enlistment and separately.

"Insane person." Insanity, unless exceptionally patent, is not a condition to be readily detected by a recruiting officer. The question of the mental soundness of a person offering himself for enlistment is rather one for the medical examining officer, and where he certifies, according to the form on the enlistment paper, that the party is "free from all mental infirmity," the recruiting officer will be safe in treating with him as sane.

"Intoxicated." This term properly includes a person so far under the influence of an intoxicating drink or drug as not to be able *fully* to comprehend the nature of his act or the obligations thereby assumed.²

"Deserter." This term signifies a person in the status of a deserter at the time, *i. e.* one who is either a deserter at large, or who, if in military custody, is unpunished or unpardoned, at the time of the enlistment. Soldiers who, having deserted, have been tried, sentenced, and fully punished for their offence, or whose sentences have been remitted, are no longer deserters in law or fact, and may legally be, and, in practice, not unfrequently

1. DIGEST, 2.

2. See DIGEST, 2.

enlisted into the army. So, a deserter whose offence has been judicially condoned, and who has been constructively pardoned, his being restored to duty without trial by competent authority under par. 218, Army Regulations, may be enlisted without violation of the present Article.

Any infamous criminal offence. An "infamous" crime generally been held to be one which will, by law, subject the person committing it to an infamous punishment, or will disqualify him from being a witness. But as disqualification of witnesses on account of infamy is in a great measure done away with,¹ the word "any infamous crime," as here used, may properly be regarded as a crime which legally subjects the offender, upon conviction, to the punishment of death or of confinement in a penitentiary. The word "*any*" is deemed to include a conviction by any State as well as United States court. It may also be held to include a conviction, by a court-martial, of a crime which, if committed by a civilian, would have subjected him to an infamous punishment—in other words a crime such as is designated by Art. 97.

ENLISTMENT IN GENERAL.

In this connection it will be convenient briefly to review the law pertaining to the general subject of enlistments in our army.²

Constitutional Provision—Power of Congress. The original authority for the enlisting of persons in the military service is to be found in the clause of the Constitution³ by which Congress is empowered "to raise armies." The Constitution does not indicate the manner in which the power shall be exercised,⁴ but leaves the whole subject without limitation to the discretion of Congress.⁵ No power whatever over the same is con-

- See Chapter XVIII—"Infamy;" Wharton, Cr. Ev. § 363, note.
- Upon the history of enlistment in the British Army, see Clode, 2 L., ch. XV; Manual, ch. IX; Tyler v. Pomeroy, 8 Allen, 486-491.
- Art. 1, Sec. 8, par. 12.
- Kerr v. Jones, 19 Ind. 354.
- "Its control over the subject is plenary and exclusive." Tarble's Case, 13 Wallace, 408. And see In the matter of Disinger, 12 Ohio St.
- The Constitution, in conferring upon Congress the power to raise armies, authorized it "of course to pass laws necessary for that pur-

Supreme Court in *Tarble's Case*,⁵ "can determine shall be raised, whether by voluntary enlistment. Except, however, upon one occasion in our history, the mode is the only one which has in fact been used. It was in the late war of the rebellion, when the proportions of the late war of the rebellion were the proportions of the late war of the rebellion, that Congress was induced to pass in the Act of March 3, 1863, c. 75, the power to raise force by an enrolment and draft of citizens of the ages of 20 and 45; and under this Act and the amendments thereto, a mild system of conscription went into effect, and voluntary enlistments during the last two years

pose." *Com. v. Barker*, 5 Bin. 428. And see *Phelan v. United States*, 287-8.

1. "By the Constitution, the power to raise an army is vested exclusively in Congress; and the executive department, in order to carry out the action of Congress into effect, must conform its action to the power conferred on it." IV Opins. At. Gen., 537. "The power of the Constitution, power to raise a single soldier. The legislative power, can alone empower him to do so." *Ind.* 354.

2. *Tarble's Case*, 13 Wallace, 408. And see *Kelley v. United States*, 135-4.

3. "It is in the power of Congress to declare war, and * * * to say who shall serve in the army." *Reid v. United States* (N. S.) 335, 337. Congress may designate persons or condition," as those "who shall constitute the army of Disinger, 12 Ohio St. 261. And see *In the matter of Disinger*, 12 Ohio St. 261. And see *In the matter of Disinger*, 12 Ohio St. 261. And see *In the matter of Disinger*, 12 Ohio St. 261.

ier than to observe that its constitutionality has been fully ned by the Courts,¹ this mode of raising armies will not here marked upon.

Their Composition. In declaring what persons shall con- te the army, Congress—as already indicated—is alone author- to determine all such details as nationality, race, age, physical moral qualifications, &c.²

ationality. The legality of the enlistment of aliens is recog- d by the common law and the law of nations,³ and the employ- t in their armies of foreign mercenaries has been resorted to l the European powers.⁴ With us, it is settled law that Con- s may, and does, by not in terms restricting to *citizens* the ons eligible to enlistment, authorize the enlistment of aliens habitants who have not been naturalized.⁵ In Sec. 2166, Rev.

indeed, the legality of the enlistment of aliens is expressly gnized by a provision “*that any alien of the age of twenty-one s and upwards, who has enlisted or shall enlist*” in our armies, , upon being honorably discharged therefrom, be admitted to me a citizen without the performance of certain conditions ired in other cases of aliens.⁶

ace—Indians. Although Indians are not, in general, citi- ,⁷ the authority to employ them in the military service seems

Kneedler *v.* Lane, 45 Pa. St. 238; Booth *v.* Woodbury, 32 Conn. Tarble's Case, 13 Wallace, 408. And see U. S. *v.* Scott, 3 Wallace, U. S. *v.* Murray, Id. 649; Allen *v.* Colby, 47 N. H. 544; Harvey *v.* am, 42 Vt. 291; Reed *v.* Sharon, 35 Conn. 191. In Sheffield *v.* 107 Mass. 284, it is observed by the court, that the term “enlisted” uly enlisted,” as employed in the Articles of war, “necessarily in- s soldiers who have been drafted as well as those who have entered rvice as volunteers.”

In the matter of Riley, 1 Benedict, 410; In the matter of Disinger, 110 St. 261; In the matter of Beswick, 25 How. Pr. 151.

III Opins. At. Gen., 671; VI Id., 476.

See U. S. *v.* Wyngall, 5 Hill, 22-25; U. S. Cottingham, 1 Rob. 635. J. S. *v.* Wyngall, *ante*, 16; U. S. *v.* Cottingham, *ante*, 615; VI . At. Gen., 474, 607; IV Id., 350; O'Brien, 86. By the conscrip- ws, (Acts of March 3, 1863, c. 75, s. 1, and July 4, 1864, c. 246, foreigners, who had only declared their intention to become citi- nder the naturalization laws, were authorized and required to be ed and made subject to draft.

See DIGEST, 105.

Indians are not citizens of the United States, but domestic

Shawnees and Delawares, was raised and held in months.² In the recent war three regiments, the First, Second and Third Indian Regiments,³ (or Guard, Kansas Infantry,") were recruited and organized under the general authority of the Act of Congress of 1861—"to authorize the employment of Volunteers" and Indians were also enlisted into other regiments of the 6th, 9th, and 14th regiments of Kansas Volunteers.

In the Act of July 28, 1866, c. 299—"to fix the establishment," at the end of the war, the President authorized by Congress "to enlist and employ in the Indian country a force of Indians, not to exceed 1000, to act as scouts, who shall receive the pay and allowances of soldiers, and be discharged whenever the need for further employment is abated, or at the discretion of the commanding officer." Under this provision⁵ such

jects." They may, however, be naturalized as citizens by an Act of Congress or a treaty. VII Opins. At. Gen., 740.

1. See 2 Jour. Cong., 465, 468-9.

2. See Act of Sept. 28, 1850, c. 83.

3. Volunteer Register, Part VII, p. 364-8.

4. See XII Opins. At. Gen., 246, where it was held that all of these regiments were entitled to bounty in the same manner as the volunteers. [Of these Indian troops Atty. Gen. Stanton expressed this opinion that "it abundantly appears," from the reports of the general and other officers who had commanded them, that they, in various States, did good service, took part in many

our service, as a force indispensable to the success of warfare with hostile Indians.

of African descent. No Act of Congress, as attorney General Bates,¹ has ever "prohibited the free colored men into the national military service." Yet this class of persons were enlisted and served as in the Revolutionary war² and the war of 1812.³ Upon the adoption of the Constitution, however, it was not till the recent rebellion, that their employment as soldiers was expressly authorized. Then, under the Acts of 2, c. 195, s. 11; July 17, 1862, c. 201, s. 12; and of 2, c. 78, s. 10, they were employed, first as laborers, and cooks, and presently as enlisted soldiers, until, by the war, there had been organized and added to the one hundred and forty regiments of colored troops.⁴ A portion of these men had but lately been slaves, but one of one of the Acts cited, (s. 13 of July 17, 1862, c. 201) declared that every slave, upon being received into service, should "forever thereafter be free." The emancipation proclamation followed on Jan. 1, 1863, and its application to all slaves.

At the close of the war, in the peace establishment as fixed by July 28, 1866, two cavalry and four infantry regiments of colored soldiers were provided as a part of the permanent military force. The four infantry regiments have since been consolidated.⁵

s., 57. The Act of December 10, 1814, uses the term "white" in the description of the class of persons made eligible to enlist. The word "white" is not to be found in any statute on the subject. The insertion in the Army Regulations from 1821 to 1861 was the result of legislation by an executive department.

Cong., 238; Sparks' Writings of Washington, vol. III,

Regins. At. Gen., 58; 1 Id., 603.

Register, Part VIII. Even the Confederate States authorized, near the end of the war, the raising of "colored soldiers." Official communication of Confederate Secretary to Major Pegram and others, A. & I. G. O., March 15,

Act of March 3, 1869, c. 124. (Sec. 1108, Rev. Sts.)

control and the benefit of their services.³ In time of peace, Congress has allowed to the pare

1. "It cannot be doubted that the power to enlist service is included within the powers delegated to Congress by the Constitution." *U. S. v. Bainbridge*, 1 Mason, 80. And *U. S. v. Hart*, Crabbe, 266; In the matter of *Riley*, 1 Benedict, Birge, 30 Conn. 438; *Com. v. Barker*, 5 Bin. 426; *Disinger*, 12 Ohio St. 261-2; *U. S. v. Blakeney*, 3 G. Morris, 1 Philad. 381; IV Opins. At. Gen., 607; VI Id.

A minor's contract of enlistment is held valid at common law. *U. S. v. Rotherfield Greys*, 1 B. & C. 345; *Com. v. Gamble*, 1 B. & C. 345; *U. S. v. Blakeney*, 3 Grat. 411; *U. S. v. Lipscomb*, 4

2. See Acts of April 30, 1790; Mch. 3, 1795; Mch. 1, 1812; Jany. 20, 1813; Jany. 29, 1813; Dec. 10, 1814; Feb. 4, 1864. In all these statutes, except the last, the *minimum* age for enlistment is fixed at 18 years; in the last, enlistments of persons as young as 16, are legalized. (The latter age was established as the minimum early in the war of the Revolution by an Act of Congress of Jany. 17, 1776. See 1 Jour. Cong., 23; *U. S. v. Blakeney*, 3 Grat. 441.) In the Acts cited the *maximum* age for enlistment was at thirty-five, (Mch. 16, 1802;) forty-five (Jan. 11, 1812 and Jan. 29, 1813;) forty-six, (April 30, 1790, Mch. 3, 1796;) and fifty, (Dec. 10, 1814.) The Commissioners of the Statutes decided that the provision of the Act of 1814, limiting the maximum at 35 years, was still unrepealed; and, upon that point, and that of the Act of July 4, 1864, as establishing a minimum age, they decided that the existing law that recruits, at enlisting, must be *of sixteen and thirty-five years;*" and it was so enacted in the Revised Statutes.

3. "Congress may constitutionally authorize the enlistment of any minors, independent of the private consent of their parents."

ny, of an unemancipated minor, the right to withhold consent and thus prevent, his enlistment.* At certain periods, however, when the public interests have appeared to require it, such consent has been in express terms or by implication dispensed with, and enlistments without it thus legalized.* It is thus perceived that the rules of the common law governing the contracts of infants, *viz.*—that the same, (except when beneficial," as where made for supplying the necessities of life,)

Consent is expressly required for the enlistment of minors by the Acts of March 16, 1802, Jan'y. 11, 1812, Jan'y. 20, 1813, Jan'y. 29, 1813, &c. 28, 1850, and by the existing law—Act of May 15, 1872, incorporated in Sec. 1117 of the Revised Statutes.

In the earlier Acts the consent of the "*master*" was required to the enlistment of an "*apprentice*." Acts of Mch. 16, 1802; Jan'y. 11, 1812; Jan'y. 20, 1813; Jan'y. 29, 1813. And see Act of Dec. 10, 1814; Resolution of Congress of Jan'y. 30, 1776. See also the early cases of *Com. v. Carter*, 5 Bin. 423; *State v. Brearly*, 2 South. 555; *Com. v. Harrison*, 11 S. 63, which were cases of applications for the discharge of apprentices enlisted without the consent of their masters. A more recent instance is *Reilly's Case*, 2 Ab. Pr. (N. S.) 334.

Where the statute, as in the case of the existing law, requires the consent of the "*parents*" of the minor, the consent alone of the father, if he be the legal custody of the child, will be sufficient, though the mother be living. Where the father is deceased, and there is a mother entitled to the legal custody, her consent is essential and sufficient. *Ex parte* *Condon*, 1 Murph. 336; *Com. v. Callan*, 6 Bin. 255. In *Com. v. Camac*, 11 S. & R. 88, it was held that a consent given in writing five or six days before the enlistment was sufficient, as duly *ratifying* the engagement of the minor. Consent is "a virtual emancipation" of the minor during the term of his enlistment, and entitles him to "receive and control" his pay, &c., as may accrue to him from the government under his contract. *Baker v. Baker*, 4 Vt. 57.

While the consent of the parent or guardian of an *alien* is required in the same manner as that of any other enlisted minor, provided he be a resident, &c., resident in this country, (*Com. v. Harrison*, 11 Mass. 63,) otherwise if his parent, &c., is not domiciled in the United States. The words of Attorney General Cushing, to make the consent essential to the contract, the alien "must have a parent or guardian whose authority, as such, over the person of the enlisted minor is known and recognized as valid by the law of the place where the enlistment is made." VI Opins., 610.

See the Acts of Dec. 10, 1814, Feb. 13, 1862, Feb. 24, 1864, and July 5, 1864, as construed and remarked upon in *Phelan's Case*, 9 Ab. Pr. 54; *Lanahan v. Birge*, 30 Conn. 445; XII Opins. At. Gen., 265; and *In re McDonald*, Lowell, 100; In the matter of *Kimball*, 9 Law 500. And see further, in this connection,—In the matter of *Riley*, 100; *dicto*, 408; In the matter of *Beswick*, 25 How. Pr. 152; *Reilly's Case*, 2 Ab. Pr. 337; In the matter of *Gregg*, 15 Winc. 479; *In re Higginson*, 16 Id. 351; XIV Opins. At. Gen., 210.

are voidable upon the infant's coming of age and may then be confirmed or repudiated by him at pleasure; and further that such contracts, when for personal services, cannot be entered into without the concurrence of the parent, or person *in loco parentis*, if there be one, to whom such services are originally due,—have no necessary application to a contract of enlistment in the military service; the former having no application in any event, and the latter only where recognized by existing legislation.' For this is not like an ordinary contract between private parties: it is an engagement to serve the State, which is entitled to avail itself of the personal military service of any of its able-bodied citizens of whatever age, when needed for the public defence and welfare. This right, being exercised for the common good, must be paramount to all individual claims. Public policy requires that neither the rights at common law of the minor contractor, nor those of his parent, guardian, or master, shall be asserted against the United States, except in so far as they may have been expressly recognized and conceded by existing statute.'

1. *In re Gregg*, 15 Wis. 481; *U. S. v. Bainbridge*, 1 Mason, 84; *U. S. v. Blakeney*, 3 Grat. 409; *U. S. v. Cottingham*, 1 Rob. 635. And see *Lanahan v. Birge*, 30 Conn. 444; *Robert's Case*, 2 Hall, Am. L. J. 195.

The doctrine that the enlisted minor may avoid his contract, on his coming of age while still in the service, has indeed been maintained in a few cases. See *State v. Dimick*, 12 N. H. 194; *In matter of Dew*, 25 Law. Rep. 540; IV Opins. At. Gen., 350. But these rulings are opposed by the great mass of authority.

2. "By the general policy of the law of England, the parental authority continues until the child attains the age of 21 years; but the same policy also requires that a minor shall be at liberty to contract an engagement to serve the State. When such an engagement is contracted, it becomes inconsistent with the duty which he owes to the public that the parental authority should continue, and it is therefore suspended." *King v. Rotherfield Greys*, 1 B. & C. 349-50. "The Government of the United States has the right, whenever it thinks the emergencies of the country require it, to command the services of any of its citizens, and it is the sole judge of that necessity. If it so determine, it may enforce its right to command such service," (through legislation of Congress,) "and thus *override* the usual and legal claims of parents and guardians." *In the matter of Beswick*, 25 How. Pr. 151. Especially in time of war is the claim of the parent, &c., to the services of the minor to be subordinated to that of the Government. See *In the matter of Disinger*, *In the matter of Kimball*, *In re McDonald*—*ante*.

Some of the authorities take occasion to suggest that a minor's contract of enlistment may be sustained on the ground that it is a "beneficial" contract, or one for necessities,—part of the consideration being certain rations, clothing, fuel, quarters, medical attendance, &c. See

Qualifications. It cannot be doubted that Congress exclusively empowered, under its Constitutional authority "to raise and support armies," to prescribe what shall be the qualifications—physical, moral, intellectual, &c.—of persons admitted into the military service. It has heretofore done so by specifying in several of the earlier statutes that such persons shall be "at least five feet, six inches, in height,"¹ and that they shall be "effective and able-bodied men."² The former provision, however, was done away with by the Act of July 5, 1862, since which date there has been no statutory requirement of height;³ the latter qualification, as to physical efficiency, still exists as a part of the existing law on the subject.⁴ Congress has also prescribed further qualifications, both *mental and moral*, for persons entering the army, which are now collected on 1118 of the Revised Statutes.⁵

Effect of Statutory Provisions as to Qualifications for Enlistment. Here may properly be examined the question whether the enlistment of a person not possessing one of the qualifications, or possessing one of the disqualifications, specified in Secs. 1116 to 1118 of the Revised Statutes, would be wholly void, or would be only unauthorized and so capable of being ratified by the waiver and act of the government. In this question was considered by the Supreme Courts of New York and Virginia, in the cases of *U. S. v. Wyngall*⁶ and

Northbridge, 1 Mason, 84; *In re Gregg*, 15 Wis. 480; *Com. v. Caffrey*, 10 R. 90; *State v. Brearly*, 2 South, 562; also *Com. v. Gamble*, 10 R. 93; *U. S. v. Blakeney*, 3 Grat. 416; In the matter of *Disin*, 10 R. 95; *U. S. v. Jones*, 18 Howard, 95. But in general it has been held that the contract is supported upon the "*broader ground of public policy*" (*Com. v. Gamble*.)

the Acts of April 30, 1790; March 3, 1795; March 16, 1802. It is held in the first Act—"without shoes."

the Acts of March 3, 1799; March 16, 1802; Dec. 24, 1811; Jan. 18, 1812; Jan. 20, 1813; Dec. 10, 1814.

expressly repealing in this respect the provision of March 16, 1802. The subsequent fixing of the height, (at five feet, three inches,) by Congress (see par. 929 of 1863,) was a clear instance of legislative action. This matter is now regulated by "instructions issued from time to time."

Par. 758 of 1881.

Sec. 1116, Rev. Sts.

See the Third Article of War.

Ill, 16.

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U. S. v. Cottingham,¹ with reference to the terms of the May 16, 1802, and it was held that this statute, which, other things, indicated "citizens" as the class of persons enlisted, was directory, or one of "restrictory direction and that an enlistment of an alien was not illegal but objection might lawfully be waived and the enlistment and ratified by the government. Similarly, *the existing* contained in the Revised Statutes, relating to the personifications of individuals for enlistment is regarded as only,² and "not as necessarily making void" enlistment classes of persons designated, "but as rendering them *merely*, at the option of the government."³ In this view cases of such enlistments, except of course where the person of mental derangement or drunkenness, was without legal capacity to *contract*, or is too young to properly military service, the government may elect to hold the soldier in service, subject to any application for discharge which addressed by himself, or his parent, &c., either to the Secretary of War or to a United States court.⁴ This construction of law has been in general followed in the practice of the Department, and is believed to be the only reasonable one. The United States should be held to be precluded from annulling an irregular enlistment where the disqualification did not exist or had ceased to impair the value of the soldier, who meanwhile had performed service, received pay, &c.;⁵ or where the soldier had committed a military offence and his trial by court-

1. 1 Rob. 631—a very instructive case. And see the analogy of *Com. v. Baker*, 5 Bin. 427, *per* Tilghman, C. J.

2. In their original form, (see, especially, Acts of July 4, 1862, and of March 3, 1865, s. 18,) Secs. 1116–1118 were in effect *modifications to recruiting officers*, &c., a non-compliance with which was provided—should subject them to military trial and punishment now specifically enjoined in Article 3.

3. DIGEST, 249–250. And see *In matter of Graham*, 8 Jones 416; *Cox v. Gee*, Winst. L. & E. 131.

4. DIGEST, 250. In the recent case of *In re Davison*, 21 Fed. 618, the court expresses the opinion, *incidentally*, that enlistments are "void."

5. Compare *Holbrow v. Cotton*, 9 Quebec Law Reports, 105, it is held that—"An informality in the enlistment of a soldier cannot be invoked by him as relieving him from military discipline while he is serving with his corps."

d punishment were called for by the interests of discipline,—could be an unfortunate contingency and against public policy.

Enlistments in Contravention of Army Regulations.

to army regulations, these, when full force is given them, can nothing more than executive directions;¹ and where a regulation prescribing a formality or condition to be observed upon enlistments is not complied with in making a particular enlistment, it is clear that the validity of the same is not so affected as to entitle the party, because of such error or omission, to a discharge, against the consent of the government. This was indeed officially so ruled by Wayne, J., of the U. S. Supreme Court, in a case on circuit in 1861;² and more recently it has been held by a U. S. Court that an enlistment of a *married* man, in derogation of a regulation requiring, generally, that recruits should be *unmarried*, was not illegal, and that the party had no claim to be discharged on *habeas corpus*.³ In a further case in a State court,⁴ the court, in holding an enlistment to be valid though it did not comply with certain instructions to recruiting officers issued by the War Department, adds—"We cannot in cases of this kind look beyond *the laws of Congress*."⁵

This class of rulings might indeed be sustained upon another and a superior ground, *viz.* that the regulation of enlistments is a matter for the most part quite beyond the province of army regulations. As already indicated, it belongs exclusively to Congress to determine what descriptions of persons shall be employed in our armies and upon what conditions, and for the executive department to prescribe rules on the subject would appear to be a transcending of legitimate authority and assumption of legislative power.⁶

1. See *ante*, Chapter III—"Army Regulations."

2. *In re Stevens*, 24 Law. Rep. 205.

3. *Ex parte Schmeid*, 1 Dillon, 587. And see *Ferren's Case*, 3 Benedict, 442, where it is observed by Blatchford, J., in regard to the requirement in question, that it is "a mere regulation made by the War Department, directory to its subordinates, and *not a statutory enactment*."

4. In the matter of *Disinger*, 12 Ohio St. 262-3.

5. See also *O'Brien*, 86.

6. See *McCall's Case*, 5 Philad. 259; *Lanahan v. Birge*, 30 Conn. 438, and other cases heretofore referred to on the subject of the exclusive power of Congress, under the Constitution, over the subject of enlistments; also citations last made from *Ferren's* and *Disinger's* cases. And compare instances, previously noted, of legislation by regulation,

3. The terms of the contract or engagement of military service¹ are also clearly within the constitutional authority of Congress. Thus it is that department of the government alone² that can fix, on the one hand, the *period* of enlistment, and, on the other, the *consideration* which the soldier shall receive for his service, that is to say the pecuniary compensation that is to be paid him and the rations, clothing, &c., that are to be furnished him. All these matters have, from time to time, been regulated by the legislation of Congress.³

in prescribing the color and height of recruits. See also *ante*, Chapter III, "Army Regulations—They must not legislate."

1. The engagement is of course to perform military service as a soldier: an enlistment entered into with the understanding that the party was to serve in other than a military capacity—as a laborer or clerk, for example—would be unauthorized and illegal. See DIGEST, 252. And compare DIGEST, 115 § 8, as to the illegality of employing a commissioned officer of the army on purely civil duty in the absence of express authority of Congress.

2. Thus it was held by Atty. Gen. Clifford, (IV Opins. 537-8,) that, where Congress has fixed the term of enlistment at 5 years, the President is not empowered to authorize an enlistment for a shorter term. "The executive department," he adds, "has discretionary authority to *discharge*," (expressly conferred by Congress in the 4th Article of war,) before the term of service has expired, but has no power to vary the contract of enlistment." And see DIGEST, 251 § 9; XV Opins., 362. An enlistment for 3 years under the existing law has been expressly held to be invalid. See DIGEST, 251 § 7; G. O. 82, Dept. of Dakota, 1869. That Congress alone can modify the *consideration* of the contract, see *post*.

3. *Term*. Enlistments have been authorized by statute for various terms, from 100 days, (Act of May 6, 1864,) to five years, the term commonly prescribed for time of peace. Also—in time of war—for "during the war;" or for a certain period, as three or five years, "or during the war." (See J. R. of Jan. 23, 1779, Oct. 21, 1780, and June 21, 1862; and Acts of Jan. 12 and Feb. 11, 1847.) As to the extent of this term, (so many years, &c., 'or during the war,') see Breitenbach v. Bush, 44 Pa. St. 317; Clark v. Martin, 3 Grant, 393; IV Opins. At Gen., 539; G. O. 101, Dept. of Va., 1865; DIGEST, 252.

Compensation. The pay of enlisted men as fixed by Congress, has varied from \$6 $\frac{2}{3}$ per month, 'the soldier to find his own arms and clothes,' (Resolution of June 14, 1775,) to \$16 per month, with \$18 for first class privates of the engineer and ordnance corps. (Act of June 20, 1864.) The present pay is fixed by Secs. 1280-1284, Rev. Sts.

Subsistence. The soldier's ration, as added to and modified by a series of statutes, is now established by Sec. 1146, Rev. Sts., by which also the President is expressly authorized to "make such alterations in the component parts of the ration as a due regard to the health and

Enlistment as a contract. We have thus seen what enlistment really is—a contract,¹ but a contract made with the State, by the specific authority of the Constitution, and thus governed by those principles or considerations of expediency and policy, expressed in the term “public policy.” We have also found that this peculiar contract, to which the Government is a party, is not necessarily affected by the rules of the common law specially applicable to the private engagements of minors. A further feature that while the necessities of military discipline require that the soldier should be strictly obliged by the contract, the State, on the other hand, is not bound by the contract though imposed by itself. Thus it may put an end to the contract of enlistment at any time before it has regularly expired or discharge the soldier against his consent.² So, pending the agreement, it may reduce the pay, or curtail any allowance, which formed a part of the original consideration.³ The contract of enlistment is thus a transaction in which private right is subordinated to the public interest. In law, it is entered into on the understanding that it may be modified in any of its terms, and is wholly rescinded, at the discretion of the State. But this dis-

cretion of the Army and economy may require.” Alterations have from time to time been made accordingly.

Arms and Clothing. Congress, by the Act of April 24, 1816, (Sec. 1296, Rev. Stat.), has devolved upon the President the authority and duty of prescribing the “quantity and kind of clothing which shall be issued annually to the troops.”

Artillery and Fuel. These are matters provided for by Congress in the annual appropriations for the Quartermaster Department.

“Enlistments into the army, made under the inducements held out by the laws of the United States, are contracts, and * * * ought to be construed according to those well-established principles which regulate contracts generally.” VI Opins. At. Gen., 190. And see *John-Dodd*, 56 N. Y. 81; *Reed v. Reed*, 53 Maine, 530; In the matter of *Knapp*, 9 L. R. 502; In the matter of *Ross*, 1 N. Y. L. Obs. 341. In *n. v. Cushing*, 11 Mass. 70, the obligation of an enlistment in the militia is contrasted with militia duty as follows:—“Enlistment is a contract of service in the militia is merely obedience to a requisition of the State, which all are subject without discrimination.”

See *Clode*, 2 M. F., 40; *U. S. v. Cottingham*, 1 Rob. 630; *U. S. v. Cheney*, 3 Grat. 409. And compare the language of the Act of March 3, 1795, in which a general authority to discharge at discretion is expressly reserved to the Government.”

See DIGEST, 252, and note, referring to the terms of the agreement now inserted in the formal enlistment paper. And compare *U. S. v. Dinsman*, 7 Howard, 1.

of pay shall be equivalent to, *i. e.* evidence of, as far as to estop the offender from denying that he army. So, in any other case, the fact that the par pay or a pecuniary allowance as a soldier, has been such with arms, clothing, rations, &c., by the means, or has voluntarily performed military services of a superior for any considerable period,—will constitute *prima facie* evidence that he has entered into a contract of enlistment with the United States.¹

In our military system, however, all enlistment is usually accompanied by the taking and subscribing an oath of allegiance, service and obedience, in writing, as in Form 2; and this Oath, as it appears in connection with the signature of the proper officials, &c., on the “enlistment paper” constitutes the almost invariable formula of a contract in our army.³ As already indicated, however, this is not an *essential* form; no oath need be taken, nor need

1. 3 Greenl. Ev. § 483; *Lebanon v. Heath*, 47 N. H. 101; *Anderson*, 16 Iowa, 599; *Simmons* § 872; G. O. 36, Dec. 1870; Do. 38, Dept. of the Platte, 1871; Do. 7, Dept. of Cal. 248-9.

2. See present form of “enlistment paper” in Art. 1, page 411. At the outset of the formation of the first Army, *viz.* on June 14, 1775, and before any Articles of War had been adopted, Congress adopted a simple “Form of Enlistment,” which was required to be sworn to, and was expressed as follows: “I, *here*, have this day voluntarily enlisted myself as a soldier

scribed, to complete the enlistment; and the described paper, be the regular and official record of the proceedings set forth, not itself a contract but merely *evidence* of one.

IV. FOURTH ARTICLE.

[DISCHARGE OF SOLDIERS.]

ART. 4. *No enlisted man, duly sworn, shall be discharged from service without a discharge in writing, signed by a field officer of the regiment to which he belongs, or by the commanding officer if no field officer is present; and no discharge shall be given to an enlisted man before his term of service has expired, except by order of the President, the Secretary of War, the commanding officer of a department, or by sentence of a general court-martial.*" This Article, which first appeared in our law in Art. 2 of Sec. 1 of the code of 1776,¹ consists of two separate provisions, and may be considered accordingly under the heads of—I. Requirements as to discharge in general; II. Discharge before expiration of term of service.

REQUIREMENTS AS TO DISCHARGE IN GENERAL.

Effect and Application of the Provision. The first clause of the Article is a general provision to the effect that all soldiers, when discharged from the military service, shall receive an instrument of discharge in writing, signed by a commanding or other specified officer, as the legal evidence that they have been discharged in fact.² This requirement applies equally to all discharges of the three kinds known to the law, *viz.* (1) the ordinary discharge given at the expiration of the term of enlistment; (2) the summary discharge before expiration of term, authorized by the second clause of the Article—these two sorts being "honorable" discharges; and (3) the dishonorable discharge adjudged and given in pursuance of, a sentence of general court-martial.

The concluding provision of the corresponding Article of the code of 1806 has been transferred, in the present code, to Art. 99.

That the formal discharge is *evidence* not only of the fact of discharge but of the circumstances—when the same are stated—under which discharge was given, see *Board of Comrs. v. Mertz*, 27 Ind. 103; *Han- v. S. Scituate*, 115 Mass. 336; *U. S. v. Wright*, 5 Philad. 211. Dr. 3.

delivery, however, is not necessarily personal. If a soldier, while held in military custody, is discharged of a sentence imposing dishonorable discharge to a term of confinement, the delivery, (pursuant to a writ to the place of confinement,³) of the written discharge in command, *for* the prisoner, to be retained by him, is rendered to the prisoner at the end of his term of confinement being a delivery to the use and for the benefit of the prisoner, and may properly be regarded as a delivery to him in law.

Self-Discharge. The discharge is the act of the government through its official representative. It results from the Article,—as it would indeed result from the principle of military enlistments independently of statute,—that a soldier, legally in service, cannot discharge himself.⁵ So the rule applied that a soldier leaving his regiment without discharge, though he immediately re-enlist in another regiment, is punishable under the 50th Article of war as a deserter.

Discharge as a Right. But a soldier, though he cannot discharge himself, is entitled, at the expiration of his enlistment,—except possibly in the presence of a military emergency justifying the government in temporarily retaining his services for the public defence,—to be forthwith discharged.

1. See form in Regulations of 1881, page 30. That it is not the discharge but only the "evidence" of it—see 3

ording to the Article.¹ His contract has been performed and completed, and a new and independent contract is necessary in order to hold him for a further term.

DISCHARGE BEFORE EXPIRATION OF TERM OF SERVICE.

Two kinds Distinguished. Two kinds of this discharge are authorized and recognized by the Article,—discharge by order of certain executive or military officials designated, and discharge by sentence of general court-martial. The two are chiefly distinguished by the fact that, while the latter is a *punishment* imposed upon a trial and conviction of a military offence, the former is a mere terminating or rescinding of a contract.² While the latter is known as “dishonorable,” the former is, in legal sense, “honorable.” A discharge by order, under the Article, can be no more “dishonorable” than a discharge by sentence can be “honorable.”

The punishment of dishonorable discharge has already been considered in Chapter XX.

Discharge by Order. In its provision on this subject the Article illustrates the general principle of public law, heretofore noticed,³ that a contract of enlistment is subject, pending its continuance, to be modified by the authority of Congress, irrespective of the will of the individual, the public interest being in such a case paramount to the private. Here the authority to discontinue the contract at any time, at discretion, is vested by Congress alike in

the President or Secretary of War, and department commanders; and the latter, it may be remarked, cannot, in the exercise of such authority, legally be restrained by the former. In practice, however, it is commonly the Secretary of War by whom discharges have been ordered under this Article, and the principal grounds of occasions for the same have been—the termination of a state of war or hostilities rendering certain troops no longer necessary; inefficiency, sickness or disability on the part of the individual soldier; and minority.

¹ U. S. v. Travers, 2 Wheeler Cr. C. 509, (Brunner, 486.)—Charge of perjury by Story, J.; Prendergast, 42; DIGEST, 2.

² See DIGEST, 3, 231; II Opins. At. Gen., 353.

³ *Ante*, p. 773—“Third Article.”

recruit should be "conclusive as to his age." 1 of Feb. 24 and July 4, 1864, the Secretary of War required to discharge all persons enlisted under listed without consent who were under 18 at the plication for discharge; thus authorizing him, ar case making it imperative upon him, to receive e regard to the fact of age, and doing away entirely, as provision of 1862 relating to the conclusiveness of age in the oath of the recruit. Later, the Act of M incorporated in Sec. 1117, Rev. Sts.,) has restored th which existed before the war by which all enlist without consent were prohibited, and has thus re tions of 1862 and 1864 authorizing enlistments v at 18, and all incidental and dependent provisions Statutes contain no provision whatever as to th the *oath* of enlistment as evidence of age, and n the granting of discharges by the Secretary of that embraced in the Article of War under consi sults that Article 4 is now the only enactment and further that the Secretary, in exercising h discharging unemancipated minors under the A stricted by any provision of law in his inquiry as of the party.¹

Minors under arrest or sentence. It n marked that if an enlisted minor, entitled as

ing, and in practice almost invariably does refuse, to grant application in his case. In such an instance the rights of the individual are deemed to be subordinated to the interest of the public in the due administration of justice and maintenance of military discipline, and the soldier is therefore required to abide and undergo the legitimate consequences of his own wrong because his claim to discharge from his contract can be entertained.¹ This effect have also been the rulings of the civil courts, which have repeatedly refused to discharge minors under the circumstances indicated.²

Limitation of the power of summary discharge. Inasmuch as the Article expressly restricts the exercise of this power to three agencies designated, it must, upon a familiar principle of construction, be regarded as excluding from such exercise officials other than those specified. Attorney General Berlin applying this principle to the Article, in a case in which the right of discharge was claimed for a commanding officer not mentioned therein, and in remarking that the right cannot be treated as attaching to command *as such*, observes as follows:—The authority to rescind a contract between the United States and the individual—which is the effect of the discharge—is a power which can exist only by virtue of an express grant; it is

DIGEST, 251. See recent Circular 5 of 1883.

Com. v. Gamble, 11 S. & R. 93; *McConologue's Case*, 107 Mass. In matter of *Beswick*, 25 How. Pr. 149; *Ex parte Anderson*, 16 599. In the recent exceptional case of *U. S. v. Hanchett*, U. S. Ct. Ills., Oct., 1883, 18 Fed. Rep. 26, a minor, enlisted without his parents' consent, within three days after his enlistment left the recruiting bureau, and did not voluntarily return, but was arrested and conveyed by the military authorities as a deserter. The court held that his going to the service so soon after he had enlisted should be regarded, not as a desertion, but as an authorized disaffirmance upon his part of the military contract, and he was therefore discharged on *habeas corpus*. The court lays weight upon the fact that the party had not been required to perform any military duty at the time he absented himself. "If he had deserted," it is said, "after being assigned to duty and in the face of an enemy, or under any circumstances which endangered his country, a different question might be presented." So, importance is attached to the fact that it did not appear that formal charges had been preferred against the party, or that a court had been ordered for his arrest as if the military jurisdiction did not fully attach upon his arrest as a deserter. The ruling in this case is at variance with established principles of military law, and a departure from the previous course of the court, and is not regarded as sound.

and finally from the service under his contract discharge is "honorable," whatever may have been the circumstances under which it was given. If the subject be a deserter,³ an offender in arrest or on conviction under sentence of imprisonment,⁵ he leaves with good standing *legally*, being entitled to all pay and enjoyment of all the other rights of an honorably discharged soldier.⁶ Such discharge is also *final* in detaching him absolutely from the army under the enlistment contract, and, so far, from all military jurisdiction⁷ as to him (thus far also,) remanding him to the status and condition of a civilian.⁹ While an order for such a discharge may be made before it is executed,¹⁰ the discharge once duly delivered cannot be cancelled or revoked, except where obtained by fraud.¹¹

1. II Opins. At. Gen., 353. And see DIGEST, 3.

2. See XIV Opins. At. Gen., 583.

3. DIGEST, 233; U. S. v. Kelly, 15 Wallace, 36.

4. See case of soldier tried for mutiny, cited in DIGEST, 233.

5. The discharge in such case operates as a remission of the unpierced portion of the confinement. DIGEST, 234.

6. DIGEST, 233.

7. Except as expressly reserved by statute,—as by the Act of March 3, 1879, § 1, of war.

8. DIGEST, 234; and see case of *White v. McDonough*, cited in note to same.

9. See also *White v. McDonough*, 100 U. S. 191.

While a discharge of this class cannot be other than "honorable" in law, its cause or occasion, though not creditable to the soldier, may be stated as a fact in the body of the certificate, and the true history thus be officially declared:¹ further, where the soldier is discharged for inefficiency or the like, the "character," called, at the foot of the discharge, may, being properly no part of the discharge, be cut off or left blank.²

Authority of the courts to discharge on habeas corpus.

Whether or not the effect of the legislation of 1864, above noticed, —as has been held by some of the authorities—to vest in the Secretary of War exclusive authority for the discharge of enlisted soldiers, and thus to oust the jurisdiction of the federal courts over the subject, it is clear that, *under the existing law*, the right to exercise such jurisdiction is unquestionable; and it has been repeatedly so held.³ Parties, therefore, deeming themselves illegally enlisted or held to service by reason of minority or otherwise, may apply for their discharge either to the Secretary of War as authorized to discharge by the 4th Article of war, or to the Courts of the United States upon *habeas corpus*. That the federal courts can exercise no such jurisdiction in this class of cases was finally settled by the U. S. Supreme Court, in *Tarble's Case*,⁴ 1869. Were such a court now to assume to issue the writ, the officer would properly not be obeyed by a military officer, and an attempt to enforce it would properly be resisted.⁵ Where, on the other hand, the writ proceeds from a U. S. Court, it is the duty of the military officer to whom it is addressed to make full return thereto of the facts and grounds upon which he holds the party, and to bring the body into court, to abide by such order, either for the discharge or the remanding of the prisoner, as the court may make in the case.⁶

DIGEST, 3, note.

DIGEST, 231-2.

Seavey v. Seymour, 3 Clifford, 440; *Ex parte* Schmeid, 1 Dillon, 154; *In re* McDonald, Lowell, 106; McConologue's Case, 107 Mass. 154; *Ex parte* v. Hanchett, *ante*.

13 Wallace, 397. This important and leading case is fully cited in DIGEST, 280-281. It has been affirmed in the recent case of Robb v. Holly, 111 U. S. 632.

DIGEST, 281-282.

DIGEST, 282.

ART. 13. *Any officer who takes money, or one of gratification, on mustering any regiment, troop, pany, or on signing muster-rolls, shall be dismissed, and shall thereby be disabled to hold any office in the service of the United States.*

“ART. 14. *Any officer who knowingly makes a man or horse, or who signs, or directs, or allows the muster-roll, knowing the same to contain a false man proof thereof by two witnesses, before a court-mart from the service, and shall thereby be disabled to employment in the service of the United States.*”

The natural order of these Articles, and that have appeared in all previous codes, commencing 1775,¹ is—14, 5, 6. Art. 14, which has been in the present code and should be numbered 5, (the two properly numbered 6 and 7,) will, as being the first and in fact including Art. 5, be first considered. Next, the *charges* for false muster, &c., will follow in the code.

FOURTEENTH ARTICLE.

Construction and Effect—“*False muster*—this offence were made punishable in the old laws (particularly in those of Charles I and of the Army,) and in Art. 121 of the Code of Gustavus the acts which may constitute a false muster.”

ons the following, which embrace all or nearly all forms of the offence as now understood:—‘the substitution, on the muster-roll, of one man or horse for another;’ the presenting of either a second time, under a different description, at the same muster; the mustering of any person by a wrong name; the mustering a person as a soldier who is not a soldier,’ (the kind of false muster specially made punishable by our Art. 5;) ‘the including officers or men as present when they are in reality absent from their regiment, &c.; the including of them as members of a corps or company after they are deceased or have been discharged; the representing of persons as effective who, because of some disability, are really ineffective in the sense of the law regulations.’

“Knowingly”—“Knowing.” The guilty knowledge, which is the gist of the offences specified,³ may be proved by direct evidence, but, more generally, will be established inferentially in circumstances indicating that the accused must, in all reasonable probability, have made the muster, or signed, &c., the roll, with knowledge that it was in fact, wholly or in some material part or parts, untrue or deceptive. An officer will in general properly be charged with the knowledge of what it is his office to know, or what he is bound to know in the performance of the particular duty devolved upon him.⁴

The present century are those which most nearly resemble our own, which in fact were in great part taken from them. Of these articles SAMUEL, whose work—“An historical account of the British Army and the Law Military”—was published in 1816, is the clearest and best exponent.

In G. O. 103, Dept. of the Ohio, 1864, is a case of a conviction of false muster in violation of this Article in mustering for pay a certain private as first sergeant, when another soldier of the command was the person entitled to be noted and paid as such on the roll.

Samuel, 301. And see Hough, 119; O’Brien, 88–9. The offence is equally committed whether the false muster, (if in writing,) be made on one of the regular “Muster-and-Pay” rolls, upon which our soldiers are paid every two months, or upon one of the so-called “muster-in” or “muster-out” rolls, especially familiar to our practice during the war, by which State troops were formally admitted into or detached from the military service of the United States.

See Samuel, 305.

“The proof must show either actual knowledge of the falsehood, or that by ordinary care and attention to his duty the accused would have known the falsehood.” Samuel, 303.

Where it appears that the accused had knowledge of the statement or entry, his motive or object in making the roll or signing, &c., the roll, is of no consequence in law.¹ Whether he aimed to defraud the United States, to secure some personal advantage, or to injure some individual, or whether his conduct was merely one of gross carelessness, without fraudulent or improper purpose, are questions quite immaterial to the issue of guilt or innocence:² they are immaterial also to the consideration of punishment, this being made mandatory by the Article of conviction.

"Two witnesses." This measure of proof is similar to that enjoined by the common-law rule in the case of perjury, for a similar reason. Were there but one witness as to the guilt or innocence of the accused, it might with fairness be claimed that the testimony was counterbalanced by the official act or statement of the officer in the muster or roll: at least one other witness would therefore properly be required to turn the scale against the accused.

FIFTH ARTICLE.

Its Effect. As this provision merely makes punishable the crime of false muster, it might have been omitted from the code as embraced within the general description of Art. 14. Judging from its terms in the earlier forms,³ originally aimed mainly at the offence of causing retainers or officers' servants to take the place of soldiers and answer upon the muster. As at present worded, it is immaterial what sort of persons are thus substituted.⁴ The direction—"sh

1. Samuel, 305; Hough, 119-120; O'Brien, 89.

2. "The mischief intended to be prevented by the law is a false statement of the numbers or circumstances of the forces, which is, or is alike detrimental to the public purse and the service; and this mischief would be the same whether it were occasioned by negligence or intention, or open or concealed fraud." Hough, 119. And see Samuel, 305.

3. The original form of 1775 and 1776 was:—"Any officer who shall presume to muster any person as a soldier who is at other times employed to wear a livery, or who does not actually do his duty as a soldier, shall be deemed guilty of having made a false muster, and shall be punished accordingly."

4. See case in G. O. 23, Mid. Mil. Dept., 1865, of an officer convicted of falsely mustering, on a muster-out roll, "four persons who were not soldiers."

ished accordingly," means of course shall suffer the punishment prescribed by the principal (misplaced¹) Article—the 14th.

SIXTH ARTICLE.

Instruction and Effect. This Article makes it an offence for an officer to accept or receive, directly or indirectly, a pecuniary or other compensation in connection with, and in relation to, the making of an official muster or the execution of a muster-roll.

Samuel,³ in remarking, with regard to the corresponding Article, that "the taking of the gratuity is the act prohibited and is of itself the sole offence," adds that, if the same is *received*, no matter with what view on the part of the person receiving it, or what effect it may afterwards have on the muster-roll, the signing of the rolls, the offence will be complete." Then's comment is—"The Article is explicit and makes no distinction whether the muster-rolls were true or false."⁴

The Punishment Prescribed in the Foregoing Articles.

These Articles are peculiar in being the only ones in the code which prescribe, with dismissal, the penalty of disability or *disqualification for office or employment under the United States*. The origin of the punishment is traced by Samuel to the period of the reign of Henry V, when the British armies were raised and supported "on the private contract of individuals," whom it was considered necessary to compel, at the peril of the severest penalty—in some instances even of death—the mustering or entering upon rolls, of genuine troops, and the furnishing of the usual complements required.⁵ Subsequently, when, as the same

See *ante*, p. 782.

Compare Hough, 131-2.

Pages 312-313.

Page 89. In S. O. 419 of 1864, an officer in command of a recruiting rendezvous is summarily dismissed for accepting money from a State recruiting agent, "in consideration of certain certified copies of muster-rolls to be furnished said agent; such acceptance of money being in violation of the 16th" (now 6th) "Article of war."

Samuel, 294. So, Atty. Gen. Legaré, (III Opins., 694-5,) observes: "The extreme jealousy of the law upon the subject of actual presence of every man liable to duty as a soldier is clearly shown by the severity with which it punishes officers guilty of imposing their superiors in the slightest degree in the matter of muster certificates. * * * The strictness with which any attempt to *foist* upon the rolls or in the place of a soldier one who is not in *fact*, is punished?" "is remarkable."

punishment for this class of offences alone no sufficient ground has been discovered now to exist. It would be an improvement to limit the penalty directed by these Articles to death, or leave it discretionary with the court.

As has been remarked in Chapter XX, the discipline, office, &c., here prescribed, attaches as a legal consequence to the conviction and punishment of dismissal from the service, and need not be specifically adjudged in the sentence.

VI. THE SEVENTH AND EIGHTH ARTICLES.

[OFFICIAL RETURNS.]

"ART. 7. *Every officer commanding a regiment, a troop, battery, or company, or a garrison, shall, in or before the first day of every month, transmit through the proper channel to the Department of War, an exact return of the same, containing the names of the officers then absent from their posts, with the date of their absence. And any officer who, through neglect or design, omits to send such returns, shall, on conviction thereof, be punished as a court-martial may direct.*

"ART. 8. *Every officer who knowingly makes a false return to the Department of War, or to any of his superiors authorized to call for such returns, of the state of the regiment, company, or garrison under his command; or of the number of men, clothing or other stores thereunto belonging*

the Secretary of War, advised as to the available strength of the army, by means of frequent and accurate reports of the numbers and condition of its minor component parts. The Army Regulations, Art. LIII, specify particularly as to the time and mode of forwarding these monthly returns, their form, &c.

The Offence made Punishable. This consists in the omission, either deliberately or through remissness, to send a return, or an "exact" return, in the manner directed. If such an omission be caused by personal disability, by the neglect of another person for whom the commanding officer cannot be held responsible, by an exigency of war, or by other cause beyond the officer's control, he cannot properly be held amenable under the Article. In general, however, the mere fact that no return has been sent for a certain month or months will be ground for presuming at least neglect on the part of the officer, and devolve upon him the burden of rebutting such presumption. To sustain a charge under the Article, it must of course appear that the accused, at the time of the alleged omission, was exercising one of the commands specifically designated. The omission contemplated—it may be noted—will subject the commander, not only to military trial, but also to criminal prosecution, and fine if convicted, under Sec. 1780, Rev. Sts.

EIGHTH ARTICLE.

Its Object. "The object," observes Hough,¹ "of making the returns here indicated as to the state of the *command*, is to enable superior officers authorized to call for such returns to become acquainted with the strength and efficiency of regiments, &c., and therefore a false return may be attended with very serious consequences." Of the returns of *arms, &c.*, he adds:—"The object of such returns is to check the issues and receipts of arms, &c., furnished to regiments from the magazines, &c., as well as to ascertain the state and condition of the equipments in use."

The Offence. To render an officer making a false return amenable to justice under this Article, he must be a *commanding officer*, and must exercise the command of a regiment, com-

1. Pages 132, 133.

pany, or garrison.¹ The false return to his superior, of a staff officer, or acting staff officer, not exercising a command, would properly be charged, not as a violation of this Article, but of the 62d, or perhaps 61st. Thus the conviction, under this Article, of an Acting Commissary of Subsistence, of making false returns to the Commissary General in the form of false abstracts of purchases, was disapproved by the Secretary of War in a General Order;² and in a further Order³ the same action was taken upon a similar finding in a case of an Assistant Quartermaster, charged with a breach of this Article in rendering false accounts current to the Chief Quartermaster of the military department.

The "superior," other than the Secretary of War, "authorized to call for" the return, will generally be the department, or regimental, commander, according to circumstances; or, in the case of ordnance stores, or clothing and "camp and garrison equipage,"⁴ the Chief of Ordnance or Quartermaster General.

To constitute therefore the offence, it must be shown that the accused held at the date of the return one of the commands designated; that the return was of one of the classes contemplated, and was made by the commander either to the Secretary of War or to a superior authorized by statute, regulation, or usage to require it;⁵ that it was false and that the accused knew it to be so. The return itself or a certified copy should be put in evidence. As to the character and extent of the falsity essential to be established, it is held by Samuel⁶ that the return need not be false throughout,—that it is sufficient if it be false in any one material particular. As to the matter of knowledge, the same author observes⁷ that—"an officer will always be presumed to know what from the duty of his office he is bound to know, or ought to inform himself of. So that ignorance of the contents of the returns

1. See DIGEST, 4.

2. G. C. M. O. 12 of 1872.

3. G. C. M. O. 19 of 1872.

4. Stores "thereunto belonging" means of course belonging to, or issued to and held by, the regiment, company, or garrison. That the returns contemplated in the Article are returns of the *personnel* or *matériel* of the command, and do not include returns of *funds*,—see DIGEST, 4.

5. See Simmons § 161; O'Brien, 303.

6. Page 320. And see Hough, 134; DIGEST, 4.

7. Pages 320-1. And see Fourteenth Article—"Knowingly," &c.

ribed by an officer cannot be pleaded in excuse, for it was his business previously to inquire—as it will be in all cases where signature is not merely formal—into the truth of the statements made in them; otherwise the returns might as well have been signed in blank.”

e Punishment. That the term “*cashiered*” employed in this Article has no peculiar significance but is equivalent to *discharged*, has been noticed in Chapter XX.

THE NINTH, TENTH, FIFTEENTH, SIXTEENTH AND SEVENTEENTH ARTICLES.

[RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUBLIC PROPERTY.]

ART. 9. *All public stores taken from the enemy shall be secured for the service of the United States; and for neglect thereof the commanding officer shall be answerable.*

ART. 10. *Every officer commanding a troop, battery, or company is charged with the arms, accouterments, ammunition, clothing, or other military stores belonging to his command, and is accountable to his colonel in case of their being lost, spoiled, or damaged otherwise than by unavoidable accident, or on actual service.*

ART. 15. *Any officer who, wilfully or through neglect, suffers to be lost, spoiled, or damaged, any military stores belonging to the United States, shall make good the loss or damage, and be dismissed from the service.*

ART. 16. *Any enlisted man who sells, or wilfully or through neglect wastes the ammunition delivered out to him, shall be punished as a court-martial may direct.*

ART. 17. *Any soldier who sells or, through neglect, loses or wastes his horse, arms, clothing, or accouterments, shall suffer such punishment, not exceeding one half of his current pay, as a court-martial may deem sufficient for repairing the loss or damage, and be punished by confinement or such other corporal punishment as a court may direct.”*

NINTH ARTICLE.

e Principle of the Article. This Article, of which the nearest parallel in our law is Art. 29 of 1775, is, in its first clause, but an

compare with it the 25th Article of the Code of James II, in Appendix.

application of the principle of the law of modern war and of nations, that enemy's property captured in war becomes the property of the government or power by whose forces it is taken, and not that of the individuals who take it.¹ Congress, which, by the Constitution, is exclusively vested with power to dispose of the property of the United States, as well as to make rules concerning captures on land and water, has applied the above principle strictly to the Army by this Article. It has not only provided for the army no allowance from the proceeds of captured stores corresponding to the prize money made payable to the navy, but, by Art. 9, has made the neglect to secure such stores to the use of the United States a military offence.²

Construction—"The commanding officer." In the Articles of 1775 the responsibility for a non-observance of the like provision was imposed upon "the commander-in-chief." The term "commanding officer," now employed, is regarded as meaning the officer in command of the separate and distinct organization in which the capture is made—as a "separate brigade," di-

1. *Decatur v. U. S.*, Devereux, 110; *U. S. v. Klein*, 13 Wallace, 136; *White v. Red Chief*, 1 Woods, 40; *Branner v. Felkner*, 1 Heisk. 23; *Huff v. Odom*, 49 Ga. 395. "Private persons cannot capture for their own benefit." *Worthy v. Kinamon*, 44 Ga. 299. And see XIII Opins. At. Gen., 105; G. O. 54, Hdqrs. of Army, Mexico, 1848; Do. 21, War Dept., 1848; Do. 64, 107, Id., 1862; Do. 160, Id., 1865. The same principle was recognized by Congress in the "Captured and Abandoned Property Act," of March 12, 1863. See *Lamar v. Browne*, 92 U. S. 195. And see further on this subject under PART II.

2. The cases in which Congress has authorized captured property or its proceeds to be appropriated to the use of the troops have been most rare. Art. 12 of November, 1775, appears to recognize a right, on the part of officers and soldiers in good standing, to "share" in "plunder taken from the enemy." At the capture of Stoney Point, in July, 1779, it was Resolved, (3 Jour. Cong., 329,) "that Congress approve the promises of reward made by Brig. Gen. Wayne, with the concurrence of the commander-in-chief, to the troops under his command;" and "that the value of the military stores taken be ascertained and divided among the gallant troops by whom it (Stoney Point) was reduced, in such manner and proportion as the commander-in-chief shall prescribe."

In a peculiar Order issued during the late war—G. O. 216, Dept. of the Mo., 1864—in consideration of the services of certain militia, in dispersing a band of "bushwhackers," it is directed that, "the horse ridden by the leader, and the watches and arms taken will be given to the several officers of the command to be retained as honorable trophies," and that the money captured be distributed to the wounded and the families of those killed.

ision, or army, or a regiment or detachment when operating separately.¹

"Answerable." By this term is understood—responsible and able to be called to account, and, in a proper case, subject to military trial and punishment.²

TENTH ARTICLE.

Construction and Effect. This provision appeared first in our law, and in substantially the same form, in Art. 5 of Sec. XII of the code of 1776. The obligation which it devolves upon company commanders is one of the fundamental principles of our military system, where the company is the unit of organization. The details of the proper performance of this duty are indicated in the Army Regulations.³

The Article is directory only. It has, however, as its penal complement, Art. 15, under which an officer who fails wilfully through neglect to properly care for the public stores in his charge may be tried and punished. And any improper disposition of such stores otherwise than as specified in that Article could be chargeable as an offence under Art. 60 or 62. Moreover, for a failure duly to *account* as contemplated in the present article, the officer would be subject to a stoppage of his pay till the pecuniary value of the stores not accounted for was made good.⁴

The declaration that the officer is "accountable to his colonel" is deemed to intend that it is devolved upon colonels of regiments

1. G. O. 64 of 1862 requires that captured property of the sort indicated in the Article "be turned over to the chiefs of the staff departments, to which said property would appertain, on duty with the troops," to be "accounted for by them as captured property and used for the public service," unless otherwise ordered in special cases.

2. See G. O. 27 of 1863, in which two officers are summarily dismissed for appropriating property taken from the enemy. By Sec. 5313, Rev. Sts., officers and soldiers are required to turn over all captured property to the proper authority, and are made punishable by fine and imprisonment for selling or "in any way dealing in" such property.

3. See par. 1738 *et seq.* Prior to the enactment of July 15, 1870, a special allowance, (similar to that made in the British service—see Saml. 1, 538,) of \$10 per month was made to company commanders "for responsibility of arms and clothing."

4. See, in this connection, the provision of the Act of May 18, 1826, incorporated in Sec. 1304, Rev. Sts.

to enforce the obligation enjoined in the Article, by causing the proper stoppages to be made, (or reporting the facts to the War Department for such or other action,) or by preferring charges in cases of dereliction on the part of their company commanders of such gravity as to call for trial and punishment.

Samuel,¹ in construing the concluding clause of the Article, observes that—"by '*unavoidable*' is intended what could not have been prevented by common and ordinary prudence, and not what might have been avoided by possible or extraordinary exertions."

FIFTEENTH ARTICLE.

The Original Enactment. The original Article—No. 1 of Sec. XII of 1776, and No. 36 of 1806—of which the present provision was a part, denounced also the offences of unauthorized selling, embezzlement and misapplication of military stores. But, as to this portion, the Article was practically superseded by the subsequent Act, "to prevent and punish frauds upon the Government of the United States," of March 2, 1863, c. 67, which is now, by the Revision of 1874, incorporated with the code as Article 60.

Construction—"Through neglect." In view of the fact that so severe a penalty as dismissal is made mandatory in all cases by this Article, it would seem that the 'neglect' here contemplated was a special neglect, and of a positive and gross character, and not merely such a neglect, to the prejudice of order or discipline, as is indicated in the general—62d—Article. Such is indeed the conclusion, in substance, of Samuel, in construing the corresponding British Article.² Thus while any neglect, resulting in a loss, &c., of stores, would, strictly, be cognizable under Art. 15, it would ordinarily be preferable not to resort to it for the punishment of slight or negative neglects of duty, but to charge thereunder only such neglects as in their gravity were assimilated to the *wilful* act also constituted an offence thereby.³

"Suffers to be lost," &c. The wilful or neglectful sufferance specified by the Article may consist in a deliberate violation of

1. Page 538.

2. Pages 516-517.

3. See Samuel, 517.

sitive disregard of some specific injunction of law, regulations, orders; or it may be evidenced by such circumstances as a reckless or unwarranted personal use of the property; causing or allowing it to remain exposed to the weather, insecurely housed not guarded; permitting it to be consumed, wasted or injured by other persons; loaning it to an irresponsible person by whom it is damaged,¹ &c.

"Shall make good the loss or damage." This provision is regarded as imposing a general pecuniary liability which may be enforced independently of the sentence.² Thus, while it would be irregular for the court, in connection with dismissal, to impose a forfeiture of an amount of pay sufficient to reimburse the United States for the loss involved, and *specified* to be forfeited for that purpose, it would be legal and regular, in the absence of any such forfeiture in the sentence, to *stop* the proper pay against the pay of the officer till fully satisfied. Strictly, the most correct form of a judgment, under this Article, would, it is believed, be—to add, in the sentence, to the imposition of dismissal, (with other penalty if awarded,) as the *punishment*, a statement that the court estimates the value of the stores lost, and, to be a certain amount specified.³ The stoppage then ordered would properly concur with this estimate.

SIXTEENTH ARTICLE.

Construction and Effect. The original⁴ of this Article, in the codes of 1776 and 1806, made offenders triable only by a regimental court. The present form is a more effectual provision for the punishment of the soldier, whether for selling his ammunition, or for any neglect, grave or slight, resulting in its waste; general court being resorted to where the offence, or loss en-

¹ See Hough, 259; also recent case of violation of this Article in G. O. 85 of 1882.

² See Samuel, 516; O'Brien, 131.

³ As in the sentence adjudged upon a conviction under this Article, published in G. O. 341 of 1863. See remarks in regard to a similar provision of Art. 17, *post*.

⁴ The true original is Art. 42 of the code of James II, where the offences denounced are made punishable with death. And compare Art. 80 of Gustavus Adolphus.

Origin. The original of this Article in our Sec. XII of 1776, from which the present form differs materially, only in the omission of the words "before the word "stoppages"—a correction called for by the fact that soldiers are now paid, not by the week, but in our army. Our first Article, which was taken from a provision of the British Articles in force prior to the Revolutionary War,² may be said to be derived from the Articles of Henry II, A. D. 1155, in which it was declared that no one, required or entitled to wear arms or armor, "could either sell, pawn, let, or otherwise dispose of them out of his custody."³ Subsequent provisions of similar effect are to be found in the Code of Gustavus Adolphus and the Articles of Charles I and James II.

Construction—"Sells, or through neglect, spoils." These words of description define a class of offences cognizable under this Article. Any disposition, other than selling or neglectful disposal, is not chargeable here, but must be laid under some other provision of the code, as Art. 60 or 62. Thus it is that *pawning*, which is not strictly selling, is not charged under the Sixty-second Article;⁴ and so of the *gambling away* of his clothing by a soldier. The *neglect* specified may be of any degree—from

1. With this Article note the prohibition repeated in Art. 3748, Rev. Sts.

2. See Appendix.

3. Tytler, 373-4.

4. G. C. M. O. 17, Dept. of the Mo., 1874.

5. G. C. M. O. 41, Dept. of Texas, 1873.

neglect to the negligence involved in an omission to take care of the thing or a mere carelessness in the use of it.¹ The *spoiling* indicated is deemed to consist in the doing to the thing such injury or damage as to render it wholly or in any material part unserviceable, or unfit for the use for which it was intended.

His horse, arms, clothing," &c. It is clear, and is agreed by the authorities,² that the term "his" is not intended to convey the idea of property or ownership, but means—issued to him as a soldier and in his possession.³ That this is its effect is fully and clearly evident from the fact that the term applies as fully to the horse and arms of the soldier in which he has no property as to the clothing of which he has a qualified ownership. These things indeed, whatever their tenure, when issued to a soldier, are issued with a view to use in the service, and with the understanding that they shall not otherwise be disposed of, but shall be reasonably cared for and safely kept. The Article, making penal such a disposition, (by selling,) and an absence of such care, holds the party to the same accountability with regard to clothing as with regard to the other objects mentioned.

Accouterments." This term refers to the minor articles of a soldier's personal equipment or horse-furniture, such as the

In a case in G. C. M. O. 120, Dept. of Cal., 1882, Gen. Schofield gives as follows:—"In cases of this class it should be clearly understood that where clothing duly issued to a soldier disappears without any apparent cause, the soldier, entrusted as he is with the safe keeping and care of the property, is in general to be presumed to be chargeable with neglect in the care or keeping of the same, and will in general be held liable for such neglect by a Court-Martial under the Article of War, unless by reasonably satisfactory evidence he shall account for the loss and acquit himself of fault. If the soldier at the time of the loss is absent without leave, or under the influence of intoxication, or otherwise improperly conducting himself, the presumption against him of neglect will of course be stronger than where he is not thus situated."

3. O. 35, Dept. of the East, 1869; Do. 31, Dept. of the South, G. C. M. O. 1, Id., 1882; Do. 15, Dept. of Texas, 1880; Do. 84, Dept. of Pacific and Dept. of Cal., 1881; Do. 5, Dept. of the Columbia, DIGEST, 6. And compare U. S. v. Brown, 1 Mason, 151. In G. C. M. O. 1, Dept. of the South, 1873, it was held *not* a violation of this Article if the accused had sold a coat, not issued to himself, but purchased from a discharged soldier.

As to a similar use of the same word in Art. 42, see that Article,

belts, cartridge box, saddle, bridle, &c. Where it is whether an implement or instrument, required to be used by the soldier, and which is not an *arm*, is an accoutrement, spoiling, &c., of the same should properly be charged under this, but under the 62d Article. Thus the breaking of a bugle, rendering unserviceable of his bugle, by a bugler, was charged in a late case.¹

“Shall suffer such stoppages, not exceeding one half of his current pay, as a court-martial may deem proper for repairing the loss or damage.” This provision is apparently distinguished in the Article from that relating to *punishment* that it is believed to be most accurately construed as holding that the stoppage was not intended to form a part of the sentence, but to be fixed, as to amount, by the court in connection with its finding or sentence, and enforced, as a charge against the soldier's account, independently of the sentence.² The language employed, is not altogether clear, and *in practice*, in probably the most cases, the stoppage has been included in the sentence as such or as a forfeiture of pay.³ This may indeed be a sufficiently legal form for the purpose; but, where it is employed, the sentence should, properly, specify that the pay stopped or forfeited is that estimated by the court as sufficient for repairing the loss or damage, or in terms to this effect.

The term—“not exceeding one half of his current pay”—is construed to mean that, however large be the amount of the loss or damage estimated by the court for reimbursing the United States for the loss or damage, the soldier shall not be subjected to a stoppage of any greater sum than one half his pay *for any one month*. One half his pay for a single month will not satisfy the judgment; the remainder must be stopped against the pay for the next month or months; no more, however, than half of the

1. G. C. M. O. 36 of 1876.

2. This view is taken in DIGEST, 5-6. And see G. O. 110 of 1876; G. C. M. O. 2, Dept. of Dakota, 1881; Do. 1, Dept. of the Interior, 1882. And, regarding the stoppage as no part of the punishment, it is held that the amount of the same would not affect the jurisdiction of a court of garrison court under the Article. G. O. 110 of 1876; Do. 111 of 1876.

3. This practice has been sanctioned by the Secretary of War in Circular Letter, A. G. O., April 6, 1883.

4. See G. O. 31, Fourth Mil. Dist., 1869.

monthly pay for any particular month being affected by the stoppage.

The "loss or damage" will be measured by the value of the property sold, lost, &c., or the sum that would be requisite to replace it.

Where the value has been fixed by a General Order or regulation, the amount thus established should be declared by the commanding officer as the proper amount of the stoppage.³

'Confinement or such other corporal punishment.'

In view of the abolition of flogging, and of the fact that very few adequate or desirable punishments of a "corporal" character remain to be availed of,⁴ confinement will be the penalty most invariably resorted to; the duration and severity of the punishment being proportioned to the gravity of the offence. In a case of the selling of property of the United States issued to the soldier, such as a horse or musket,—an act which would constitute embezzlement in law,—confinement in a *penitentiary* will be a legal punishment if impossible in a like case under the existing local law. No limitation as to the form of sentence in the Article precludes the imposition of forfeiture, fine, or dishonorable discharge, by way of punishment.

VIII. THE ELEVENTH, TWELFTH AND THIRTEENTH ARTICLES.

FURLONGS—CERTIFICATES OF ABSENCE—FALSE CERTIFICATES.]

ART. II. *Every officer commanding a regiment or an independent troop, battery, or company, not in the field, may, when act-*

In G. O. 35, Dept. of the East, 1869, the stoppage is in the form of forfeiture of "one half of his monthly pay for the period of four months." In G. C. M. O. 75, Dept. of the Platte, 1876, the form is—"be stopped in sums not to exceed one half his pay per month until same is made good."

G. C. M. O. 15, 53, Dept. of Texas, 1880. The remarks of Gen. Sherman in these cases are especially to the point. The loss to the United States is *not* measured by the mere expense of transportation. G. C. M. O. 1, 5, Dept. of the Columbia, 1883.

See G. C. M. O. 53, Dept. of the Mo., 1869, as to the stopping of the value of a Spencer carbine, as fixed by existing Orders.

See par. 806, Army Regs.; also Chapter XX—"SENTENCE AND PUNISHMENT."

any troop, battery, or company not in the field, any garrison, fort, post, or barrack, may, in the officer, grant furloughs to the enlisted men, for a twenty days in six months, and not to more than absent at the same time.

"ART. 12. At every muster of a regiment, troop, company, the commanding officer thereof shall give officer certificates, signed by himself, stating how have been absent and the reasons of their absence. The commanding officer of every troop, battery, or company shall give certificates, stating how long absent non-commissioned officers and private soldiers have been absent and the reasons. Such reasons and time of absence shall be entered in the rolls opposite the names of the respective absent officers and the certificates, together with the muster-roll, shall be submitted by the mustering officer to the Department nearest as the distance of the place and muster will admit.

"ART. 13. Every officer who signs a false certificate as to the absence or pay of an officer or soldier, shall be liable to the service."

ELEVENTH ARTICLE.

Its Effect. This Article, which is a consolidating provision derived from Art. 56 of 1775, with amendments of March 3, 1863, does not call for special consideration. It applies to formal written leaves of absence for soldiers.

ting furloughs properly includes the authority to grant *extension* of the same, which indeed are practically new furloughs.

Form and Operation of Furlough. The form of the written furlough is given in the Army Regulations.¹ At the end of the furlough it is declared that the soldier shall rejoin his regiment, &c., at the completion of the authorized period, "or be considered a deserter." This is to be regarded, however, as meaning, not that he will thus *necessarily* become or be treated as a deserter, but that he will be *presumed* to be such in the absence of a satisfactory explanation of his failure or delay to return at the proper time. The *onus* of promptly making such explanation devolving on himself. The status of a soldier on furlough is in most respects the opposite of that of a soldier on duty. While subject to military discipline, he is not recalled before his leave has expired if, in view of an emergency, his services are required, and liable to be treated as a deserter if he takes advantage of the occasion to abandon the army, or, otherwise, in his legal relations, practically a civilian; the military command and jurisdiction being suspended in his case.²

TWELFTH ARTICLE.

Effect. This provision, scarcely modified since 1775, is, prescribing as to the form of certifying the absences of officers and soldiers on the muster-rolls, &c., directory merely, and not penal. It is indeed rather introductory to the Article which follows, by which the signing of false certificates (as to absence, &c.,) is made a specific military offence.

THIRTEENTH ARTICLE.

Effect and Construction. This Article which, originally, Art. 58 of 1775,) referred only to certificates of *absence*, was amended, in the code of 1806, to include certificates of *pay* also.³ In present practice, it applies to the certificate appended to the Muster-and-Pay Roll, which covers remarks in regard to absence, and other matters. It will be observed that it is distinguished from Arts. 5 and 14, relating to false muster, in that it does not

Par. 208. See the early form of furlough prescribed by Congress in 1781. 3 Jour. 633.

See Chapter VIII—"Jurisdiction during absence on leave," &c.; *post* under "Fifty-Ninth Article."

As apposite here, (and to Arts. 12 and 14,) see the remarks of Gen. Legaré, in III Opins., 694-5.

require, to constitute the offence, that the officer shall *know* sign the false certificate, but only that the certificate shall be *in fact*. The Article evidently views it as a duty of a commanding officer to be informed, (especially upon occasions of muster) as to the presence or absence of, and the payment rendered to, the officers and men under his immediate command, and templates that, in signing the certificates, he will, if he has his duty in this regard, necessarily have personal knowledge of the facts to which he subscribes. It will therefore be no sufficient defence to a charge under this Article, that the accused *believed* the certificate signed by him to be true, if it was in fact false. Upon this point it is observed by Samuel,* that the Article proceeds "upon the presumption that the party certifying is bound to inform himself fully of all that he is in duty called to certify; and if he be negligent in informing himself, or rely on anything on trust, he cannot find any lawful excuse in his ignorance or misplaced confidence, being both in opposition to the duty and manifest duty."

The mere signing of an officer's pay-roll or voucher before the time on which the pay becomes due has been held not to constitute a violation of this Article;† the certificate signed not being a "false certificate" in the sense in which the term is here employed: further, the Article is regarded as contemplating false entries or statements made in regard to third persons, such as the soldiers and sergeants of the command of the officer signing, and not embracing such statements in regard to himself. For the latter reason, the offence of fraudulently duplicating his personal pay by an officer, is, in the opinion of the author, not properly a violation of this Article or chargeable under it.‡

IX. THE EIGHTEENTH ARTICLE.

[TAXING, OR BEING INTERESTED IN, THE SALE OF PROPERTIES, OR PROVISIONS, &C.]

"ART. 18.—*Any officer commanding in any garrison, fort, or barracks of the United States who, for his private advantage,*

1. Page 298. And see O'Brien, 302; DIGEST, 5.

2. DIGEST, 5; G. C. M. O. 28 of 1872.

3. It is so charged, indeed, in a recent case in G. C. M. O. 20 of 1872, where, however, the court found not guilty of the charge but guilty of "conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline."

*duty or imposition upon, or is interested in, the sale of any
als, liquors, or other necessities of life, brought into such gar-
s, fort, or barracks, for the use of the soldiers, shall be dismissed
the service."*

Object and Effect. This provision, dating from Art. 66
75,¹ is the only portion remaining in force of the three Arti-
of the code of 1806 relating to the business of *sutlers*—a
which has been done away with since July 1, 1867.² Its
object evidently is,—on the one hand to prevent officers
profiting themselves, to the oppression of venders of pro-
ns and to the injury of the soldiers for whom the same are
ly intended; and, on the other hand, to prohibit combina-
between officers and venders, by which undue facilities are
shed to the latter, to the exclusion of other parties and to
probable detriment and defrauding of the soldier. In its
t, the Article may be regarded as declaring that either rela-
however slight be the interest or profit, is wholly incom-
ple with the character and province of an officer of the army,
cially when commanding troops.

to the *interest* referred to—this, as is noticed by Samuel,³
not be a direct interest such as that attaching to a partner-
or part ownership of the articles introduced for sale, but
be one of an indirect or contingent character, as for instance
interest arising from an agreement or mutual understanding
een the officer and the owner of the supplies that the former
receive a percentage on the sales, or a commission on all
ts above a certain sum, or some present of money or goods
turn for his sanction of the speculation or promotion of the
ness.

uses under the Article. Instances of trials for violations
is Article have been of rare occurrence. In one General
r it has been held that it was no defence to a charge, against
ficer, of having exacted a sum of money from a citizen as a

With this Article and the corresponding Art. 4 of Sec. VIII of
see the Resolution of Congress of June 17, 1776, *in pari materia*.
r. Cong. 377.

By the Act of July 28, 1866. As to the legislation relating to
ers," (the successors of sutlers,) see DIGEST, 382-3—"Post trader."
pages 445-6. And see O'Brien, 113.

"ART. 19. Any officer who uses contemptuous o words against the President, the Vice-President, th the United States, or the chief magistrate or legisla the United States in which he is quartered, shall be the service, or otherwise punished, as a court-mart Any soldier who so offends shall be punished as a may directl.

"ART. 20. Any officer or soldier who behaves his respect toward his commanding officer shall be puni martial may directl.

"ART. 21. Any officer or soldier who, on any p ever, strikes his superior officer, or draws or lifts u, or offers any violence against him, being in the e. office, or disobeys any lawful command of his superi suffer death, or such other punishment as a cour directl."

NINETEENTH ARTICLE.

Earlier Forms. This Article first appears in 1776, where it was provided that an officer or soldi "presume to use traitorous or disrespectful wor authority of the United States in Congress assembl Government,) "or the Legislature of any of the U which he may be quartered"—should be punish manner as prescribed in the present form, except t was made mandatory in the case of an officer." Th

derived from the British code where the offence consisted in the use of "traitorous or disrespectful words against our royal person or any of our royal family." In the American Articles of 1806, the word *contemptuous* was substituted for "traitorous," and the provision in other respects assumed substantially the form in which it now appears.

Practice under the Article. The acts in violation of this Article which have formed the subject of military trials have been almost exclusively of a political character. The great majority of the cases were those of denunciatory language used in regard to the President or his administration during the late war of the rebellion.¹ No instance has been found of a trial upon a charge of disrespectful words used against Congress alone or the Vice-President alone, although in some examples the language complained of has included Congress *with* the President.² Only one case is known of an arraignment upon a charge of speaking disrespectfully of a Governor of a State,³ (and in that the accused was acquitted,) and none of an alleged violation of the Article in assailing a State legislature.

Nature and Proof of the Offence. The "words," (which need not, of course, be addressed to the President, &c., or uttered in his presence,) may be either spoken, or written—as in a letter, or published—as in a newspaper. They may consist in abusive epithets, denunciatory or contumelious expressions, intemperate or malevolent comments upon official acts, &c. Although the mere fact that no disrespect was *intended* will not constitute a defence to a charge under the Article, yet in a case where the words are not in themselves necessarily disrespectful, the *animus* of the accused in using them will be a circumstance material to the in-

ious matter against the Government of the United States, or either House of Congress, or the President, with intent to defame or to bring into contempt or disrepute,' &c.

1. See cases in G. O. 377 of 1863; Do. 171, Army of the Potomac, 1862; Do. 23, Id., 1863; Do. 52, Middle Dept., 1863; Do. 119, Dept. of the Ohio, 1863; Do. 33, Dept. of the Gulf, 1863; Do. 68, Dept. of Washington, 1864; Do. 86, Northern Dept., 1864; Do. 1, Id., 1865; Do. 29, Dept. No. Ca., 1865.

2. G. O. 23, Army of the Potomac, 1863; Do. 119, Dept. of the Ohio, 1863.

3. G. C. M. O. 567 of 1865.

quiry whether any offence, or what degree of offence, has been committed. Thus an adverse criticism of the Executive expressed in emphatic language in the heat of a political discussion but not apparently intended to be personally disrespectful, should not in general be made the occasion of a charge under this Article.¹ In a case of spoken words, it will also be a material question whether they were uttered in a private conversation or in the presence of officers or enlisted men. Opinions for which, privately indulged in, an officer or soldier would not be answerable, may constitute, if publicly declared, the offence under consideration. And any disrespect will be aggravated by being manifested before inferiors in rank in the service.*

To constitute the offence of speaking, &c., disrespectfully of the President, the official referred to must be the acting President at the time. Maligning a deceased President would not be within this Article. Thus the public exulting over or justifying of the assassination of President Lincoln—an offence which was in several instances, toward the end of the late rebellion, made the subject of trial by court-martial,³ was properly charged as a violation of Art. 99.

It would not constitute a *defence* to a charge under this Article, to show that the person was spoken of, &c., not in his official but in his individual capacity; or to show that what said or written of him was true. If the words are contemptuous or disrespectful *in se*, the offence is complete.

TWENTIETH ARTICLE.

Construction—"Who behaves himself." The original Article of 1775 made punishable a behaving with disrespect toward a commander, and a speaking of false and injurious words in regard to him. Because specific reference to the *use of words* is omitted from the present form, it is not to be inferred that this mode of showing disrespect is no longer recognized. On the con-

1. "To seek indeed for ground of offence in such discussions would ordinarily be inquisitorial and beneath the dignity of the government." Judge Advocate General Holt. DIGEST, 7. It would, ordinarily, be still more inquisitorial to look for the same in a private conversation.

2. See G. O. 171, Army of the Potomac, 1862; Do. 29, Dept. of No. Ca., 1865.

3. See cases in G. O. 88, Dept. of Pa., 1865; Do. 105, Dept. of the Mo., 1865; Do. 50, Northern Dept., 1865.

ary, the term retained—"who behaves himself with disrespect," c., is sufficiently general and comprehensive to include all kinds of personal disrespect, whether by acts or words. As it is said of the Article in a General Order:—"It contains no qualifications to manner, time, or place, and is understood to cover," not merely "all actions," but also "language spoken or written." This construction is confirmed in practice: indeed prosecutions under this Article are more frequently based upon the use of becoming language than upon any other form of misconduct.

"With disrespect." As expressed in the Order last cited, the disrespectful behaviour contemplated is such as "detracts from the respect due to the authority and person of the commanding officer." Disrespect by *words* may be conveyed by opprobrious epithets or other contumelious or denunciatory language applied to the commander; by an open declaration of an intention not to obey his orders; by making unwarranted imputations against him or attributing to him improper motives; by misrepresenting or aspersing him in a communication addressed to his superior or other officer in authority, or in a circular, newspaper, or other form of publication,² &c. Disrespect toward a commander by *acts* may be exhibited in a variety of modes—as by neglecting the customary salute,³ by a marked disdain, indifference, insolence, impertinence, undue familiarity, or other rudeness in his presence, by a systematic or habitual disregard of, or delay to comply with, his orders or directions or by issuing counter orders, by an assault upon him not amounting to breach of the 21st Article,⁴ &c.

The words or facts constituting the alleged disrespect, (and which should be specifically set forth in the charge,) need not necessarily consist in acts or language directed at the commander in his *official* or *military* character, but may be applied to him *personally* as well.⁵ As indicated under Art. 19, it is no defence

1. G. O. 44, Dept. of Dakota, 1872. And see DIGEST, 8.

2. See Hough, (P.) 125-127; also cases reported by James, (p. 357,) and Samuel, (p. 248,) of Capt. Brown and Lieut. Zouch, dismissed for being concerned in a publication "having for its effect to excite public opinion against their commanding officer." And see cases of violation of this Article in G. C. M. O. 28 of 1875; G. O. 47, Dept. of the Platte, 1870.

3. Hough, (P.) 125.

4. See G. O. 53, Dept. of Dakota, 1871.

5. Hough, (P.) 126; O'Brien, 68; Capt. Chamberlayne's Case, reported by James, (p. 307,) and Samuel, (p. 246;) G. O. 44, Dept. of Dakota, 1872.

that the superior was assailed in his private or civil capacity, the law of military discipline cannot safely recognize such distinctions.

It is also not essential that the disrespect be *intentional*; a failure to show a proper respect to the commander, through ignorance, carelessness, bad manners, or no manners, may, with a deliberate act, constitute an offence under the law. Where, however, it is doubtful whether an act, or language necessarily disrespectful *in se*, may properly be treated as amounting to disrespect, the *animus* of the party becomes a material inquiry.¹ Where an impropriety of manner or expression being animadverted upon by the commander, has been received with an intention to be disrespectful will be the more readily punished. An intentional disrespect is of course much more aggravated than one which is unintentional: a disrespect is also aggravated if it is *publicly* committed; and so of disrespectful language including *false* imputations. It is no defence, however, to a commander using such language, that the same only stated *facts*,² or that what was said was no more than *deserved* by the superior. If an officer or soldier has been aggrieved by his commander, he must, instead of inveighing against him, properly seek redress through the 29th or 30th Article of War, or otherwise through proper military channels.³ Further it is no defence, or even palliation, that the person guilty of the disrespect was an officer of high rank and long service. Indeed this circumstance is viewed by Hough⁴ as a "strong aggravation, inasmuch as the effect of such conduct upon others must produce an influence pernicious in proportion to the deference and respect paid to the character of the individual who offends."⁵

The punishment being made discretionary by the Article, it may be measured by the nature and circumstances of the disrespect in the particular case; a severer penalty being called for where the disrespectful behaviour was unprovoked, undeserved

1. See O'Brien, 68.

2. 'But if the accused can clearly show not merely that his statements are *true*, but that *it was his duty to express them*, it might be different.' O'Brien, 69.

3. O'Brien, 69. And see G. O. 47, Dept. of the Platte, 1870.

4. Precedents, 130.

5. It is also held an aggravation of the offence that the commander is an officer of especially high rank and station. Samuel, 245; O'Brien, 69.

deliberate, violent, or public—as in the presence of officers or soldiers, than where it was the reverse.¹

“Toward.” As already indicated, it is not essential to the offence that the language should be addressed to the commander in person, or that the words or acts should be said or done in his presence. “Toward” thus includes not only *to*, but *at*, *against*, or *in reference to*. Disrespectful language used in regard to a commander, in his absence, has been expressly held in Orders² to be within the Article. But where the language was employed in the course of a private conversation, it will in general be inquisitorial, inexpedient, and quite unworthy the Government, to make it the occasion of a charge, unless the disrespect was of an extreme character, and manifested under such circumstances as to set a pernicious example to inferiors or otherwise gravely prejudice decency or discipline.³

“His commanding officer.” The Article, in its present form, is not, as in the early codes, confined to cases of disrespect shown to the General of the army or other chief commander, but includes offences of this class committed against all commanding officers of whatever degree, whether of a company, regiment, brigade, division, department, or other command. But comprehensive as is the term “his commanding officer,” it can apply only to an officer who is the actual commander of the accused at the time of the offence. The commanding officer of an officer or soldier, in the sense of the Article, is properly the superior who, in the exercise of his command, is authorized to require obedience to his orders from such officer or soldier.⁴ The offence, therefore, of showing disrespect to an officer, who, while the *superior*, was not the commander of the offender, would not be cognizable

1. It may be noted that this is one of the few Articles under which the sentence to make an *apology*, or to *ask pardon*, has been found appropriate in practice; the matter which has given rise to the charge being not unfrequently a *personal* one between the parties. See Col. Debeigg's case, in Samuel, 244-5, and 2 McArthur, 358-360; cases of Surgeon Dalzell and Capt. Brown, in James, 56, 59; O'Brien, 68; also Chapter XX—"Apology."

2. G. O. 44, Dept. of Dakota, 1872; Do. 47, Dept. of the Platte, 1870. In the case in the former of these Orders, the disrespectful language was used in public at the Trader's store.

3. See G. O. 29 of 1844.

4. See DIGEST, 8; G. C. M. O. 37, Dept. of Texas, 1884.

under this Article, but should be charged under some other, as the 62d.¹ And so of the offence of using disrespectful language toward the usual commander of the accused—as the commander of his company or regiment—committed by the accused when *on detached service or duty* under a quite different, though temporary commanding officer;² such offence too should be charged under an article other than the Twentieth.

TWENTY-FIRST ARTICLE.

Origin. This important Article has come down to the present time from Art. 1 of Sec. III of Charles I, and Art. 15 of James II.³ Since its first appearance in our law as Art. 7 of 1775, it has undergone but slight modifications: these, so far as material, will be noticed as we proceed.

Construction—“*On any pretence whatsoever.*” These words, while emphasizing the description of the grave offences made punishable by this Article, do not add to its legal effect, or preclude the possibility of a defence to a charge under the same. Like the same words which appeared in the original of Art. 24, but were omitted in the form of 1806 and have since been disused, they might also be omitted from the present Article without modifying its purport or operation.

“*Strikes.*” A *battery* is evidently here intended. The person of the officer must be reached by the blow: to strike *at* him without touching him is not the offence indicated, but a mere assault only.⁴ Upon this word Hough⁵ observes: “The act of striking is sufficient; it does not signify whether it be with the fist, or with a stick, or any other weapon, or whether it be a gentle or a hard blow; the mere striking constitutes the crime.” The

1. In G. O. 53, Dept. of Dakota, 1871, a conviction is disapproved because it was neither alleged nor shown that the officer offended against “was the commanding officer of the prisoner at the time of the commission of the offence.” And see O’Brien, 68, 69.

2. DIGEST, 8.

3. See Appendix. The several provisions of the Article are also to be traced in Arts. 18, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 29 and 30, of the Code of Gustavus Adolphus.

4. See the definition of Assault-and-Battery under the “Fifty-Eighth Article,” *post*.

5. Page 84; Id., (P.) 79.

ag must however be intentional; an accidental blow or
 ft would not constitute the offence contemplated.

s not unfrequently said by writers and in Orders that the
 ag of a military superior by an inferior cannot be justified
 any circumstances or by any provocation whatever. The
 1 of an officer should indeed be sacred to the soldier; in an
 ne case, however, a soldier may be warranted in using force
 st his officer, as when acting in self defence against illegal
 ce, or in quelling a disorder under Art. 24; and in any case
 ft of a resort to undue force by a superior against an inferior
 e admissible in evidence as going to palliate the offence of
 tter in employing force in return.¹

draws or lifts up any weapon against." Here, how-
 are intended simple *assaults*; the offence consisting either
 ere threatening of violence without anything further being
 sed, or in an attempt to do violence which is not effectuated.
 eapon chiefly had in view by the word "draw" is no doubt
 word; the term however might apply to a bayonet in a
 1, or to a pistol; and the drawing of either in an aggressive
 er, or the raising or brandishing of the same minaciously
 presence of the superior and *at* him, is the sort of act con-
 ated. The raising in a threatening manner of a fire-arm,
 her or not loaded,) or of a club, or any implement or thing
 ich a serious blow could be given, would be within the
 ption—"lifts up."

offers any violence against him." Samuel² construes
 "as synonymous with the same word in the term, formerly
 yed in our own Article as well as the British, "offer to
 " and therefore as referring only to an attempt to do violence,
 ere exhibition of violence, without the consummation of
 ert violent act, *i. e.* as an assault simply. O'Brien³ appar-
 considers the term "offer violence" as indicating actual
 ce, and offer as meaning do or commit. It is deemed the
 able view to regard the phrase, as employed in our Article,
 eneral and comprehensive one, including violence proposed
 l as violence committed—assault as well as battery, as indeed

ee G. C. M. O. 45, Dept. of Dakota, 1880.

ages 275, 277.

age 81.

"His superior officer." By the term "superior" in this part of the Article, is clearly meant an officer superior to that of the offender—or, where an enlisted offender, any commissioned officer whatever—who, properly speaking, a *commanding officer*, as remarked in the DIGEST,³ is thus "broader" which relates to offences against commanding of

"Officer"—it need hardly be observed—meant where in the code, commissioned officer.⁴ An assault upon a non-commissioned officer, (or disobedience of one,) by a soldier, is properly charged under 1

To warrant a conviction, it should appear that the person assailed by him was his superior. If the latter was an officer of the same company or garrison, or if he wore a uniform indicating his rank, he may in general be presumed to have known or to be his superior. If the officer was not thus identifiable, as where he wore no distinctive uniform, the offence was committed in the night time, or under the circumstances, as they appear in the testimony, the accused shall be deemed to have had the knowledge requisite. In an encounter with an aggressive soldier at night, or under circumstances in which he is easily recognized, the superior will properly at once assert his rank, &c., and the fact that he did so

nice, as part of the *res gestæ*, upon the trial of the subordinate for an offence under this Article.¹ The officer will of course presumably a *commissioned* officer from the fact of his acting as such, in connection with the further fact that all the officers of an army are equally and alike commissioned officers.

in the execution of his office. This term has sometimes been defined by the more familiar expression "on duty." But an officer may be in the execution of his office without being on duty in the strictly military sense, and a more accurate definition of the phrase is believed to be—in the performance of an act of duty either pertaining or incident to his office, or legal and appropriate for an officer of his rank and office to perform. An officer is deemed to be in the execution of his office when engaged in any act or service required or authorized to be done by law, by statute, regulation, the order of a superior, or military law.² It is not essential that the act should be one pertaining to a special branch of duty: thus any officer engaged in quelling a fray or disorder under the provisions of Art. 24 would properly be regarded as "in the execution of his office." There are many officers especially charged by their commissions with the executive authority of a command, with whom to be on duty and in the execution of office is the general rule of the military status—of regimental or company commanders. But any officer, whatever special his function, when called upon in an emergency to perform the part of a military superior, will be "in the execution of his office" in the sense of the present Article.

Disobeys any lawful command of his superior officer—Obedience to orders in general. The importance of this article is owing mainly to the fact that it makes punishable the most heinous and capital offence of Disobedience of Orders. Obedience

¹ In G. O. 34, Dept. of Va., 1863, a conviction of a soldier upon a charge of offering violence to his superior officer was disapproved by Major-General Dix, upon the ground, (in part,) that the officer assailed "did not belong to the same regiment with the accused, was not in uniform, nor did he wear any badge of office;" and because it was "not shown that the accused knew him to be an officer, or that he declared himself to be an officer."

² Simmons § 174; Hough, 83; Id., (P.) 79; O'Brien, 81-2; Benét,

to orders is the vital principle of the military life¹—the mental rule, in peace and in war, for all inferiors through grades from the general of the army to the newest recruit.¹ The rule the officer finds recited in the commission which he a and the soldier, in his oath of enlistment, swears to observe. As in the British system all military authority and discipline derived from one source—the Sovereign,³ so in our army every superior, in giving a lawful command, acts for and represents the President, as the Commander-in-chief and Executive power of the Nation, and the source from which his appointment and authority proceed.⁴ Hence the dignity and significance of a formal military order, and hence the gravity of the obligation which it poses upon the inferior to whom it is addressed. The obligation to obey is one to be fulfilled without hesitation, with alacrity to the full;⁶ nothing short of a physical impossibility ord

1. "Obedience to command is the chief military virtue, in relation to which all others are secondary and subordinate;" it is, for the soldier, "the first great bond or charter of his service." Samuel, 2 "The first and last virtue of a soldier." Harcourt, 16. "The first, second, and third part of a soldier is obedience." *Sutton v. Johnson*, 1 Term, 546. "The first duty of a soldier is obedience, and this there can be neither discipline nor efficiency in an army." *McDowell, Deady*, 244. And see *Trammell v. Bassett*, 24 A. "No other obligation must be put in competition with this; neither mental authority, nor religious scruples, nor personal safety, nor personal advantages from other services. All the duties of his" (the soldier) "life are, according to the theory of military obedience, absolute that one duty of obeying the command of the officer set over him." Clode, 2 M. F., 37. And see remarks of Secretary of the Navy, C. M. O. 1, Navy Dept., 1882.

2. "The inferior in place, whether standing one or one hundred below his superior, is bound to show implicit obedience to the commands of the latter." Harcourt, 13-14.

3. Clode, M. L., 107.

4. The following extract from Samuel, (p. 283,) is equally applicable to our military system:—"The Constitution has submitted the action of the army to be directed and controlled in everything by one supreme commander, from whom, by a number of communicating branches, a continued, uninterrupted and unabated stream, all orders are made to the individuals, near or remote, attached to the military establishment, as they partake all alike of the essence of supreme authority. Every officer or soldier is obliged implicitly to obey." To what may be added from Clode, (M. L., 74,.)—"All orders of superiors consistent with supreme authority, and, in case of conflict, that which is obeyed which is imposed by the higher authority."

5. "A military subordinate is compelled to an unhesitating obedience to the very letter of the command received or order issued." 1

ing a complete performance.¹ While a certain discretion in execution of an order may sometimes be permitted to officers in rank or command, or officers charged with expert or particularly responsible duties,² the inferior cannot, as a general rule, be permitted to raise a question as to the propriety, expediency, or feasibility of a command given him, or to vary in any degree its terms.³ Even where the order is arbitrary or unwise, and the effect must be injurious to the subordinate, he should first obey, reserving till after compliance his complaint and application for redress.⁴

"A subordinate, on receiving an order, must obey promptly and implicitly, * * * must at once comply. * * * In presence of the superior, more particularly, is this mechanical obedience due." O'Brien, *supra*, and see Simmons § 595; De Hart, 165. The obedience must be complete and undeviating." Samuel, 287. In the military service, prompt and unhesitating obedience to orders is indispensable to a successful attainment of the object. * * * Every delay and every failure to an efficient and immediate compliance tends to jeopard the interests." *Martin v. Mott*, 12 Wheaton, 30.

Button v. Johnstone, 1 Term, 546.

See Hough, 88, (note 47,) 633. But where a discretion is taken apart materially from the terms of an order, the officer makes himself amenable to charges, in case the result does not justify his action. In the case of Lord Nelson's proceeding at Copenhagen, in not complying with his superior's signal to return and not engage the enemy, which ended in a victory, Hough observes that, 'if he had *failed*, he would have been brought to trial by court-martial.'

If it were open to a soldier to be the judge of the propriety of orders given him, there would at once be an end of all military discipline." Harcourt, 14. "In military affairs it would be intolerable."

M. L., 75. "A subordinate officer must not judge of the propriety, expediency, or consequence of the order he receives." *Button v. Johnstone*, 1 Term, 546. "While subordinates are pausing to consider whether they ought to obey, or are scrupulously weighing the evidence of the facts upon which the commander-in-chief exercises his right to demand their services, the hostile enterprise may be accomplished without the means of resistance." *Martin v. Mott*, 12 Wheaton, 30. Soldiers should obey "without cavil or inquiry;" they "have no right to inquire of their superior officer as to the object of a detail upon which they are ordered by him." *Riggs v. State*, 3 Cold. 90. And see *1 v. McDowell*, Deady, 244-5; *Dinsman v. Wilkes*, 12 Howard, 1; *Crammell v. Bassett*, 24 Ark. 499; 11 Opins. At. Gen., 713.

Soldiers may complain of the command of a superior, but they are bound in the first instance to obey." Samuel, 265. "The orderly and proper course in all cases is to obey orders and afterwards, if any oppression or oppression is practiced, appeal to superior authority for redress." G. O. 40, Army of the Potomac, 1862. And see Harcourt, 16; *ibid.*, 82; G. C. M. O. 28, 87, Dept. of the East, 1871.

The disobedience contemplated by the Article. It is agreed by the authorities that the offence specified in this part of the Article is a disobedience of a positive and deliberate character. However it may be exhibited,—whether in the form of an open and express refusal to do what is ordered, or in a simple not doing it, or in a doing of the opposite, or in a doing of some thing which has been expressly forbidden to be done,—the disobedience must be wilful and intentional. A mere *neglect* to comply with an order, through heedlessness, remissness, or forgetfulness, is an offence chargeable, not in general under this Article but under the 62d.¹

The command or order. It is also agreed by military writers that the “command” contemplated by the Article is an express and personal one, that is to say an order of a specific character, addressed or given to the accused in person, in contrast to one of a general scope, as one issued to the command of which the accused is a member and applying to him more than the rest.² Thus a failure to comply with the general or standing orders of a department, district, post, &c., or with the Army Regulations, is not an offence under this Article, but

1. “To support this charge, it is essential that there should be shown such an intentional disregard of authority as is evinced by a wilful refusal or omission to comply with the specific command of a superior officer.” G. C. M. O. 26 of 1872. “There must be an intentional disobedience or defiance of authority. * * * The capital offence is not complete by mere neglect or forgetfulness.” Simmons § 17. And see Samuel, 286; Hough, 89; Id., (P.) 105; Harcourt, 21; Bombay R., 132, 155; Manual, 19; O’Brien, 84; G. C. M. O. 80, Dept. of the East, 1871; Do. 51, Id., 1872; Do. 112, Dept. of the Mo., 1872; Do. 12, 61, Id., 1873; G. O. 85, Dept. of the South, 1873; Do. 61, Id., 1874; Do. 13, Dept. of Cal., 1873; Do. 24, 35, Fifth Mil. Dist., 1868. To be wilfully disobeyed, the order must of course be *understood*; “and if there is doubt in the mind of the court on this point, the prisoner should have the benefit of it.” G. O. 68, Div. of the Atlantic, 1875. The express orders should never be given to a soldier when under the influence of intoxicating drink, has been repeatedly insisted upon in Orders. See G. O. 58, 63, Dept. of the South, 1873.

2. Simmons § 178; Bombay R., 132; O’Brien, 84; G. O. 61, Dept. of the South, 1874. Other persons may indeed be included in the order provided it contains a distinct and direct mandate upon the individual who afterwards becomes the accused. Thus it has been held an offence under this Article for an officer to refuse or omit, of his own will, to act as a member of a court-martial for which he has, with others, been specifically detailed. G. O. 43 of 1833.

the 62d.¹ And so of a non-performance by a subordinate y mere routine duty.²

to the *form* of the order,—this is immaterial³ provided that substance amounts to a positive mandate.⁴ Mere instructions l not in general fulfill the definition of an order or “com- ,” in the sense of the present Article;⁵ nor would a mere ment of his wishes and views by a superior, however point- mpressed upon the inferior in his entering upon the duty.⁶ rder may be oral or written;⁷ it may be communicated or rdered to the subordinate by the superior in person, or through d party—as a staff officer; or—provided of course it is per- , referring specifically or clearly to the individual and im- g upon him an express duty—it may be conveyed through medium of the General or Special Orders of the command ar Department.

to orders *conveyed through a third person*,—it is to be re- ed that, as several times observed in the course of this se, all orders issued by the Secretary of War are presumed issued by the direction of the President and are his in law. rders emanating from the War Department, Headquarters e Army, or Headquarters of a Division or Department, sub- d by the Adjutant General, an Assistant Adjutant General, er staff officer, are to be presumed to be the orders of the tary of War, (representing the President,) the General of rmy, or the Division or Department commander, as the case e. But wherever orders are thus vicariously issued through

1. C. M. O. 26 of 1872; Do. 7, Dept. of Texas, 1874; G. O. 24, th Mil. Dist., 1868; Simmons § 178.

2. O. 24, Fifth Mil. Dist., 1868; O'Brien, 84.

3. O'Brien, 84; Pollard v. Baldwin, 22 Iowa, 333; Cowell v. Hopkin ; N. H. 14; State v. Small, Smith's Reports of Militia Cases, 57.

4. See O'Brien, 84.

5. DIGEST, 10.

6. But if an order be actually given, it is no less to be obeyed though sed in a courteous instead of a peremptory form. G. C. M. O. 883.

7. Samuel, 285; O'Brien, 84. The order may be contained in a tele-

Though a written order be informal, or do not contain the name person, or address him by a wrong name, yet if such that it can- sonably be misunderstood as an order to himself, it will be within ttemplation of the Article. Compare State v. Small and State v. mith's Militia Cases, 57, 83.

a *military* representative, it should be of the communication that they are issued proper superior, or the words—"By order of the commander, (naming him and his command) the signature."¹

An order is not rarely transmitted through commanders, or other officers, to the person reached: a failure to comply in such a case is the command of the superior from whom it proceeded.²

Where an order is conveyed and perfunctorily obeyed by an officer, aid-de-camp, or other messenger, he is liable under the present Article if he fails to state that he should be apprized that the order is from a superior whose name the order purports to be from. If he is informed upon this point, the declaration that he is the staff officer, aid, &c., of the commander, and delivers the order by the direction of the commander, is presumed to state the fact, and the recipient is liable in complying with the order thus conveyed, under a charge under the present Article if he disobeys.³

As to an order *published*,—the same, whether issued at the post or station, as by the commander on public occasion,⁴ is ordinarily presumed to be binding upon the accused and thus binding upon him, although the obligation on the ground that he was not advised of the order by reason of authorized absence or other cause, the burden of proof will commonly be on the accused to be advised of such order before the trial, within which it was required to be executed.⁵

1. See par. 664, Army Regs. Assuming the order is from a superior, who has not in fact directed the execution, it hardly be remarked—a grave military offense.

2. The omission of an intermediate communication in the transmittal will not affect the force of the order. See *Ex parte* of the South, 1864.

3. See O'Brien, 85.

4. See O'Brien, 85. The transmission of an order through a non-commissioned officer does not affect its validity. G. O. 91, Dept. of Ark., 1864.

5. Compare the old custom of publishing orders by trumpet, that no man may pretend ignorance. *Ex parte* Adolphus; Do. 63 of James II.

lawful command." The word "lawful" is indeed sur-
ge, and would have been implied from the word "command"
but, being used, it goes to point the conclusion affirmed by
the authorities that a command *not* lawful may be disobeyed,¹
utter from what source it proceeds.² But to justify an in-
in disobeying an order as illegal, the case must be an ex-
one and the illegality not doubtful.³ The order must be
repugnant to some specific statute, to the law or usage of
military service, or to the general law of the land.⁴ The un-
ness of the command must thus be a *fact*, and, in view of
the general presumption of law in favor of the authority of mil-
orders emanating from official superiors,⁵ the *onus* of es-

Samuel, 284; Simmons § 595; Prendergast, 54; Harcourt, 50;
en, 82, 267; De Hart, 166; DIGEST, 9; Sutton *v.* Johnstone, 1 Term,
U. S. *v.* Carr, 1 Woods, 480; Olmstead's Case, Brightly, 28; Peo-
McLeod, 1 Hill, 426; Riggs *v.* State, 3 Cold. 85; State *v.* Sparks,
Ias, 632.

State *v.* Sparks. That an illegal order emanating from the Presi-
r Secretary of War can confer no authority, see Little *v.* Barreme,
ch, 179; Eifort *v.* Bevins, 1 Bush, 460; Com. *v.* Palmer, 2 Bush,

Samuel, 287; Hough, (P.) 104; Prendergast, 54; Harcourt, 20;
n, 83; De Hart, 166; II Opins. At. Gen., 713; DIGEST, 9; Riggs
e, 3 Cold. 86.

Samuel, 284; Hough, (P.) 104; Simmons § 595; Harcourt, 20;
rgast, 54; O'Brien, 267; De Hart, 166; G. C. M. O. 86, Dept. of
65; Riggs *v.* State, 3 Cold. 85; Terrill *v.* Rankin, 2 Bush, 453.
following orders have been held to be *not* "lawful" in the sense
Article:—An order given by a company commander to a soldier
e his washing done by a particular laundress. G. C. M. O. 87,
of the East, 1871: An order requiring a soldier to assist in build-
private stable for an officer. G. C. M. O. 130, Dept. of Dakota,
An order requiring a soldier to act as an officer's servant. DI-
10: An order forbidding a soldier to contract marriage. ID.: An
requiring a post band to play in a neighboring town for the pleas-
the citizens. ID. "A superior officer has no right to take advan-
his military rank, to give a command which does not relate to
y duty or usages, or which has for its sole object the attainment of
private end. Such a command is not such a lawful command as
like disobedience to it criminal." Manual, 19. Interesting naval
nvolving the legality of orders given to officers are published in
140, Navy Dept. 1869, (Ast. Surg. Green's case,) and Do. 182,
73.
code of Gustavus Adolphus makes punishable, as a specific mili-
fence, the giving of an unlawful command. See his Arts. 27 and
I compare his Art. 45.

See De Hart, 297; O'Brien, 302; G. O. 34 of 1852.

establishing this fact will, in all cases—except where the order is palpably illegal upon its face—devolve upon the defendant. Clear and convincing evidence will be required to rebut the presumption.¹

The legality of the order may depend upon the period, whether one of peace or war, (or other emergency,) at which it is issued. An order which would be unlawful in peace or in the absence of any public exigency, may be perfectly lawful in war and is justified by the usages of civilized warfare.² Thus an order for the seizure of citizens' property for the subsistence or transportation of the troops, the construction of defences, &c., or the destruction to facilitate the operations of the army in the field, or to prevent its falling into the hands of the enemy, is not only authorized, but to disobey it would be a grave crime. But, in general, in time of peace an order similar to a disregard of private right would be repugnant to the principles of law, and to fail to obey it would constitute no violation of the present Article.³

But while a military inferior may be justified in not obeying an order as being unlawful, he will always assume to do so at his own personal responsibility and at his own risk.⁴ Even if there may seem to be ample warrant for his act, he will, in the long run, commonly be at a very considerable disadvantage, the presumption being, as a rule, in favor of the legality of the order. On an executive mandate, and the facts of the case and reasons for the action being often unknown in part at least to himself and to the possession only of the superior. In the great majority of cases therefore it is found both safer and wiser for the inferior to obey instead of resisting an apparently arbitrary authority, to avoid the alternative of obeying even to his own detriment, thus placing himself in the most favorable position for obtaining redress in the future.⁵ On the other hand, should injury to a

1. Samuel, 284; O'Brien, 82; De Hart, 297.

2. O'Brien, 83; Olmstead's Case, Brightly, 9.

3. Compare Mitchell v. Harmony, 13 Howard, 115, and 1 Blat. 549; Koonce v. Davis, 72 No. Ca. 218; Yost v. Stout, 4 Cold. 10; Christian Co. Ct. v. Rankin, 2 Duv. 502; Keighley v. Bell, 4 F. 790, and other cases cited in PART III.

4. 2 Clode, M. F., 37; G. O. 28 of 1851; Do. 34 of 1852; Diggs v. State v. Sparks, 27 Texas, 633.

5. O'Brien, 82; G. O. 40, Army of the Potomac, 1862. And see People v. Gaul, 44 Barb. 107-8.

son, or damage to the United States, result from the execution of an order by a subordinate, the plea that he acted simply in obedience to the mandate of his proper superior will be favored at military law, and a court-martial will almost invariably justify and protect an accused who has been exposed to prosecution by reason of his unquestioning fidelity to duty, holding the superior alone responsible. How far he will be protected by the civil tribunals, if sued or prosecuted on account of a cause of action or offence involved in his proceeding, will be considered in PART III of this treatise.

Unjust or objectionable commands. That the order was really unjust or unreasonable would, it need hardly be added, constitute no defence to a charge of disobedience of orders under this Article.¹ The plea that the order was opposed to the religious scruples of the accused, and that he was therefore warranted in disregarding it, is one which has been considerably discussed in England, where it was held wholly insufficient as a defence.* would of course be held equally untenable in our practice.

¹ In the *militia* case of *State v. Woodman*, Smith, 25, 31, it was held to entitle a superior to obedience from a subordinate, "his command must be lawful *and reasonable*." It need hardly be said that no such theory of military obligation could be allowed to prevail in the army. In a recent case it was held to be no excuse for not obeying the orders of a superior on drill, that such orders, in the opinion of the inferior, were improper and incorrect as not being in compliance with the established tactics. G. C. M. O. 134, Dept. of Dakota, 1884.

* See Capt. Atchison's case, Clode, 2 M. F., 37, 66-7; Hough, (P.) 117. In the debate upon this case in Parliament the Duke of Wellington said: 'If an officer or any other member of the army is to be allowed to get rid of the discharge of a disagreeable duty upon such a plea, there is an end of all discipline in the army.' Hough, (P. 118,) in giving a further case of an officer in India who declined to go into the trenches on Sunday, expresses himself as follows:—"Every one must admit that if an officer will refuse to obey orders, because they may be contrary to his religious belief regarding the Holy Scriptures, he is unfit to remain in the army. The real Christian is that person who does his duty to his sovereign and to his country without demur. If his conscience be unsettled, he should quit the army at once, and not unsettle the affairs military." And he adds—"Many battles have been fought on a Sunday." See also Manual, 20; Pratt, 125. And compare in this connection *Reynolds v. U. S.*, 98 U. S. 145, to the effect that a person's religious belief cannot be accepted as a justification of his overt violation of the criminal law of the land.

"His superior officer." This is as here employed than where first occurred. "superior officer" here intended must be the *order*; else indeed his command would be one. Thus an officer of the general staff, very considerably a certain other official line officer, without being authorized to give an order to either. Contemplated by the Article will thus in the case of an inferior officer; but he need not be the commanding officer of the regiment, post, department, &c.: it is upon whom the command has temporarily devolved.

To constitute the specific offence of violation of Art. 21, the "superior officer" must be *known to be such* by the accused, at the time the order which is not obeyed.

XI. THE TWENTY-SECOND, TWENTY-FOURTH

[MUTINY, SEDITION AND

"ART. 22. Any officer or soldier who joins in any mutiny or sedition, in any party, post, detachment, or guard, shall be punished as a court-martial may direct."

"ART. 23. Any officer or soldier who, in any mutiny or sedition, does not use his utmost efforts to suppress the same, or having knowledge of any such mutiny or sedition, does not, without delay, give information to the commanding officer, shall suffer death, or such other punishment as the court-martial may direct."

"ART. 24. All officers, of what rank or position, shall use their best efforts to part and quell all quarrels, from the moment they are known, among persons belonging to his own corps."

1. See G. O. 7, Dept. of the Mo., 1867. In the case where the officer giving the order is the superior officer, the offence may be punished by death. As was properly done in a recent case, the Mo., 1885, of a soldier who, when a patient in hospital, was directed by the medical officer in charge of a minor operation, refused to undergo the same.

op, battery, or company, and to order officers into arrest, and to commission officers and soldiers into confinement, who take part in the same, until their proper superior officer is acquainted therewith. And whosoever, being so ordered, refuses to obey such superior or non-commissioned officer, or draws a weapon upon him, shall be punished as a court-martial may direct."

TWENTY-SECOND ARTICLE.

Origin. This and the following Article may be traced to Art. 15, sec. II of Charles I, Art. 8 of the Parliamentary Code of the Earl of Essex, and Art. 13 of James II: various forms of the offence of mutiny were also made capitally punishable by Arts. 65, 75, 78 and 120, of Gustavus Adolphus.

Its Principal Subject. The form of this Article, as of the others which follow it, has undergone no considerable change since 1715.¹ Of the acts which it makes punishable, the principal, *mutiny*, has commonly been characterized as the gravest and most criminal of the offences known to the military code.² It has also historical significance; the well-known mutiny of Jacobite troops in 1689³ having given rise to the Mutiny Act, which for nearly two hundred years constituted the statutory military law of Great Britain.

Mutiny Defined. Mutiny has been variously described, but generally not in such terms as fully to distinguish it from some other military crimes, the characterizing *intent* not being sufficiently recognized.⁴ It may, it is believed, properly be defined as consisting in an unlawful opposition or resistance to, or defiance of superior military authority, with a deliberate purpose to overthrow or prevail over the same.⁵

¹ The omission in 1806 of the words "on any pretence whatsoever" already been noticed under Art. 21.

² "It stands conspicuously in front of the line of military crimes." Samuel, 249. "The most heinous known to military law." O'Brien, 175. It can however scarcely be regarded as a graver offence than Misbehaviour before the enemy.

³ Referred to *ante*, in Chapter II, p. 8.

⁴ See the definitions of Samuel, (p. 253;) Simmons, (§ 170;) Thring, 175;) O'Brien, (p. 71, taken from Bombay R., p. 128;) and in G. O. 1837.

⁵ This is in substance the definition given by the author in DIGEST, II.

It is this intent which distinguishes it from the other offences with which, to the embarrassment of the student, it has often been confused both in treatises and General Orders. Thus, disrespect toward a commanding officer, the offence which is the subject of Art. 20, has sometimes been charged as mutiny.¹ More frequently the doing or offering of violence to a superior officer and disobedience of orders,—offences specifically made punishable by Art. 21,—have been so charged or considered.² Still more frequently has the designation of “mutiny” been erroneously attached to disorders of the class known as “mutinous conduct”—such as defiant behaviour or threatening language toward superiors, muttering or murmuring against the restraints of military discipline,³ combinations of soldiers with a view to acts of violence or lawlessness which however are not committed, intemperate and exciting discussions at meetings held for the purpose of protesting against orders, declining to perform service in the honest belief that the term of enlistment has expired,⁴ &c. Such disorders, stopping short of overt acts of resistance, or not

1. See Hough, 107; Id., (P.) 120.

2. Convictions, however, of such offences under the name of “mutiny” have been in some cases expressly disapproved. As in G. O. 10, Dept. of the Mo., 1863, where the offence consisted mainly in the striking of an officer by a soldier. In Lieut. Col. Fremont’s case (G. O. 7 of 1848,) a finding of guilty of “mutiny” was disapproved by the President upon the ground apparently that the acts alleged under this charge constituted rather instances of disobedience of orders. Of course the offences specified in Art. 21, if committed in the deliberate purpose of subverting superior authority, would properly be chargeable as mutiny.

3. This “muttering or murmuring” is classed as mutiny by some of the earlier writers. See Samuel, 254 and note; Hough, 71.

4. As in the case of the Tennessee militia, treated and brought to punishment as mutineers by Gen. Jackson, in 1814. See *post*. And see the case in DIGEST, p. 12, of a body of volunteers which, having enlisted ‘for the war,’ (*i. e.* the war of the late rebellion,) refused, after active hostilities had terminated, to serve against Indians. Other instances occurred, during the late war, of volunteers, who, honestly believing that their contract had expired or that they could not otherwise legally be required to render further service, joined in refusing to serve and demanding their discharge. Such were in general cases of mutinous conduct, or disorder in violation of Art. 62, rather than mutiny, the *animus* of mutiny not being present. See G. C. M. O. 521 of 1865; G. O. 32, Dept. of N. E. Va., 1861; G. O. 108, Army of the Potomac, 1862. A combination, however, to refuse to perform military service, legally and properly required of the parties, if persisted in after due warning, &c., may certainly be treated as mutiny. See text *post*.

characterized by a deliberate intent to override superior authority, does not constitute in general the legal offence of mutiny, but is commonly to be treated as "conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline" in violation of Art. 62.¹ And the same is to be said of disorderly conduct under the influence of passion, which, though accompanied by resistance to a superior, is without the *animus* peculiar to mutiny in law.² The definition of mutiny at military law is indeed best illustrated by a reference to the adjudged cases treating of that offence as understood at *maritime law*. Thus, in regard to mutiny or rebellion on American merchant vessels, it has been expressly held that the intention to overthrow for the time at least the lawful authority of the master is an essential element of the crime;³ that simple resistance against the officer, without proof of intent to overthrow the authority, is not sufficient to constitute revolt or mutiny;⁴ that mere disobedience of orders, unaccompanied by such intent, does not amount to mutiny;⁵ and that insolent language or disorderly behaviour is *per se* insufficient to establish it.⁶

of the Intent. The intent may be openly declared in the act, or it may be implied from the act or acts done,—as, for example, from the actual subversion or suppression of the su-

periors (§ 171.), referring to the "distinction between mutinous conduct and mutiny," observes—"Mutinous conduct implies behaviour directed to mutiny: * * * a soldier whose conduct is evidently of a mutinous character may yet be clear of the completion or commission of the offence." And see, as to the same distinction, Hough, 71; *Id.*, 72; O'Brien, 79-80; DIGEST, 11. In G. O. 115, Dept. of War, 1865, Gen. Augur says: "The conduct of the prisoners, though disorderly and riotous, does not constitute mutiny."

In G. C. M. O. 73, Dept. of the Mo., 1873, Gen. Pope disapproves the definition of mutiny for the reason that the evidence showed that the vessel was only "intoxicated, disorderly and disobedient." And see the case in G. O. 10, A. & I. G. O., Richmond, 1861.

U. S. v. Kelly, 4 Washington, 530; *U. S. v. Smith*, 3 *Id.* 78; *U. S. v. Mason*, 5 Mason, 277; *U. S. v. Hemmer*, 4 *Id.* 107; *U. S. v. Thompson*, 1 *Id.* 171; *U. S. v. Forbes*, Crabbe, 560. And see XIV Opins. At. 89. In *U. S. v. Haines*, Story J. specifically compares the situation of a ship's company to that of a military command.

U. S. v. Kelly, *ante*; *U. S. v. Lawrence*, 1 Cranch C. 94; *U. S. v. Sumner*, 1 Sumner, 448; *U. S. v. Almeida*, Whart. Prec., 1061.

U. S. v. Smith; *U. S. v. Haines*; *U. S. v. Thompson*; *U. S. v. Morrisette*; also *U. S. v. Barker*, 5 Mason, 407.

U. S. v. Kelly; *U. S. v. Thompson—ante*.

perior authority,¹ from an assumption c
longs to the superior,² a rescue or att
a stacking of arms and refusal to march
arms and assuming a menacing attitude

1. As in the case of Lt. Col. Johnston, where the accused, putting himself at the h
and imprisoned the military governor of N
the case, published in G. O. 15, Dept. of tl
cers dismissed for mutiny in unlawfully ar
his command the commander of the post.
of the crew of the "Bounty," (1789,) tl
seized, forced into a boat, and abandoned in

2. See cases in last note. Sec. 5360, Re
as constituting revolt and mutiny at maritir
of the crew" who "usurps the command c
ter or other lawful officer in command ther
thority and command on board."

3. G. C. M. O. 513 of 1865; Do. 104, Do
1866; G. O. 87, Army of the Potomac, 186
of the South, 1864; Do. 16, Dept. of Ala.
of the South, 1865; Hough, (P.) 66; U. S. v.

4. See cases, published in G. O. 43 of 186
corporals, tried for stacking arms with otl
obey orders or do any military duty; also C
1864; Do. 20, Dept. and Army of the Tenn

5. See case in G. C. M. O. 227 of 1864, (c
wounded in the course of the mutiny;) I
officer was killed and two other officers w
mutineers;) G. O. 131, Sixteenth Army (c
cused did, in company with other comrade
ers, take his arms and by force pass out of tl
attempt to disperse an assembly of officers c
proper authority at a dwelling house near
Div. of the South West, 1865; G. O. 16, De
accused, a first sergeant, fully armed and in
camp, with a mob of soldiers, and formed v
before the camp of another regiment, for
surrender into their custody of a soldier of t
been arrested by a guard from the other reg
to one of its officers;) G. C. M. O. 104, De
Id., 1866, (where the mutineers assembled v
ened the lives of their officers and offered v
beside releasing a prisoner, "attempted to
tillery of the fort where they were on duty
(where an officer, with a body of soldiers,
powering the guard, assumed control of
provost-marshal and ordered the soldiers to
in G. O. 104, 243, of 1863; Do. 115, Dept.
M. O. 142, 147, 154, Dept. of the Mo., 186

In the historical case of the mutiny in

d from a variety of circumstances no one of which perhaps could of itself alone have justified the inference. But the fact of *combination*—that the opposition or resistance is the proceeding of a number of individuals acting together apparently with a common purpose—is, though not conclusive, the most significant, and most usual evidence of the existence of the intent in question.

Intent alone not Sufficient. While the intent indicated is essential to the offence,² the same is not completed unless the opposition or resistance be manifested by some overt act or acts, of specific conduct. Mere intention however deliberate and fixed, conspiracy however unanimous, will fail to constitute mutiny.³ Words alone, unaccompanied by acts, will not suffice.⁴

In June, 1783, the mutineers, (assembled in force,) menaced Congress with their demands for pay; so that that body was induced to change its place of session to Princeton. 4 Jour. Cong., 231-236, 267-; Hildreth, v. III, p. 436.

In addition to the cases already cited, see instances of combination of soldiers to resist superior authority or not comply with orders—G. O. 136, Dept. of Washington, 1865, (where six soldiers jointly refused to do guard duty;) G. C. M. O. 521 of 1865, (where thirty-four non-commissioned officers and privates of a regiment jointly refused to go in for drill or obey orders;) G. O. 32, Dept. of N. E. Va., 1861, (where sixty-two non-commissioned officers and privates of the same regiment "formally and positively, in the presence of their regiment, refused to do any further duty whatever," on the pretext that they were longer in the service;) G. C. M. O. 130 of 1865, (where there was combination of officers "to compel their commanding officer into a course of action not in accordance with his judgment.") In the case of the Tennessee militia, in 1814, over two hundred, including some officers, abandoned the service and proceeded to their homes. See *post*.

That there can be no mutiny in the *absence* of the specific intent, is singularly illustrated in the case published in G. C. M. O. 50 of 1867, where, notwithstanding extreme acts of violence committed by the alleged mutineers, it was held by the reviewing authority that their conduct did not proceed from a mutinous disposition, but was induced by "outrageous treatment" on the part of one of their officers, and the sentence imposed by the court was therefore remitted. And see case decided in DIGEST, 12.

Excuses, however, for conduct in the nature of mutiny are to be accepted with great caution, since actual mutiny, while it may be extenuated by circumstances, admits of no legal defence. See "Punishment," §.

1. U. S. v. Kelly, 4 Washington, 530; O'Brien, 72.

2. Simmons § 170; Griffiths, 22; Benét, 258.

A Violent Act not Necessary.
need not be active or violent.¹ It is a
persistent refusal or omission, (with intent to
obey orders or do duty.

The Resistance, &c., must be
the superior when resisted is attempt to
order,² or to enforce his authority but
be mutiny to resist him. But the intent
be manifest and unquestionable to justify
force, and what has been said under
necessity assumed in disobeying a command
not lawful, is even with greater force.

A Combination not Essential
to constitute mutiny it is not necessary that
of several persons: a single individual
may commit the act of mutiny.⁴ As
a combination is usual and indeed a
common mode of actuating mutiny being common
or complaint with a greater or less number.

1. Simmons § 170; O'Brien, 70, 71.
Bache, Printed Trial, (1814,) where the court
simply declared, in the presence of their
to obey their orders, or submit to their
United States; also U. S. v. Haines, 5
At maritime law, it has been held that a refusal
compliance, (with the intent essential to
constitute mutiny. U. S. v. Smith, 1 Maso
107; also U. S. v. Nye, 2 Curtis, 225; U.

2. See U. S. v. Smith, 3 Washington,

3. As where, at maritime law, the superior
ence to orders by the use of a deadly weapon
endanger life, when in fact no necessity
exists. See U. S. v. Sharp, 1 Peters C. 1
& Minot, 311; U. S. v. Smith, *ante*.

4. "It is not necessarily an aggregation
individuals, for it may originate and be
* * * It may be as complete with one
Samuel, 254, 257. And see Hough, 68;
Hart, 348; Benét, 206; Harwood, 195;
Contra—O'Brien, (pp. 70, 71.) who dis-
consideration the *intent* distinguishing
may be guilty of mutiny at *maritime law*
v. Kelly, 4 Washington, 530, and 11 Wh

t, where it exists, need not necessarily be *preconcert*;¹ but, as tinies naturally grow out of previous consultations and con-rings, it will generally be such.²

Sedition. This offence which, as designated in the present icle, is by the earlier writers³ nearly identified with mutiny, in the more recent treatises, distinguished as being a resistance the *civil power*, demonstrated by riot or aggravated disorder. us Simmons says:—"Sedition is supposed to apply to acts of easonable or riotous nature, directed rather against the public ce and the civil authority than military superiors, though nec- arily involving or resulting in insubordination to the latter."⁴

instance of a trial, under this Article, for sedition, as thus ined, is known to have ever occurred in our military history.⁵

The Specific Acts made Punishable by the Article—*Who begins, excites, causes, or joins in, any mutiny,*

Samuel⁶ distinguishes in general terms the two classes of sons contemplated by the Article as those who *lead* and those o *follow*. And the simplest view to take of the words quoted to treat *begin*, *excite* and *cause* as different names for the same ng, to wit the offence of the officer or soldier who originates is instrumental in originating a mutiny, and *join in* as refer- g especially to the offence of one who participates in a mutiny en once inaugurated.

strictly, however—though the terms are not necessarily so sely construed—the *beginning* of a mutiny would embrace y cases in which the offender himself personally takes the

"It is by no means necessary that there should be any previous berate combination for mutual aid and encouragement, or any pre- erted plan of operations to effect the illegal object." U. S. v. Morris- i Sumner, 450. And see U. S. v. Kelly, *ante*.

"The grand feature generally to be found in the crime of mutiny." uel, 274.

Samuel, 249-50; Hough, 68.

Simmons § 170. And see Samuel, 250, note; Griffiths, 21; Bombay x 28; O'Brien, 71; Benét, 206. O'Brien writes—"Any act which, if d against the military authorities, would be mutiny, constitutes, if cted against the civil authorities, the crime of sedition."

The instances of so-called "sedition" and "seditious combination" . O. 6 of 1863 and 47 of 1864, were clearly not *sedition* but eaded cases of mutinous or disorderly conduct.

initiative in the overt act or proceeding of opposition or resistance; while the *exciting* or *causing* of a mutiny would include instances in which the offender takes no personal part in the riotous demonstration but confines himself to the stimulating of others to the resistance, &c., actually resorted to. Thus a mutiny may be excited and caused by an inflammatory harangue addressed to soldiers by one having influence or authority over them, as—especially—by an officer or non-commissioned officer; by his using, in their presence, defiant language, or behaving otherwise defiantly, toward a common superior; by his openly setting at naught the orders of the commander or issuing orders counter to his; by his falsely representing to his inferiors that they are being or about to be oppressed by a superior, &c.¹

Joining in a mutiny is the offence of one who takes part in a mutiny at any stage of its progress,² whether he engage in actively executing its purposes, or, being present, stimulates and encourages those who do.³ The joining in a mutiny constitutes a *conspiracy* and the doctrines of the common law thus become applicable to the status—*viz.* that all the participators are principals and each is alike guilty of the offence; that the act or declaration of any one in pursuance of the common design is the

1. "The act of beginning any mutiny is an overt act, and the direct employment of force against authority. * * * A party so acting becomes a ringleader." Hough, 70. And see O'Brien, 70.

2. See Hough, 71; also the case in G. O. 10, Dept. of the Mo., 1863, of a captain charged with "exciting mutiny" in causing the soldiers of a regiment to believe that their colonel had refused to furnish them with rations and otherwise injured them. O'Brien, (p. 298,) says—"It is enough to prove that the conduct of the prisoner was *one* of the exciting causes of the mutiny."

It is considered by Hough, (p. 70; and, to a similar effect, see O'Brien, 72,) that a superior who induces a mutiny in his own command by arbitrary treatment of his inferiors, or by failing to exercise proper discipline or other misconduct, is chargeable with the offence of exciting or causing a mutiny. It is deemed doubtful, however, whether such acts were contemplated by the Article.

3. "In its incipient state or when it shall be complete." Samuel, 254.

4. "It is not necessary that they should be proved individually to have used any force. * * * It is sufficient if they joined in the general confederacy, and by their presence countenanced the acts of violence committed." U. S. v. Sharp, Peters, C. 126. "Those who take part, whether by words or by deeds, by direct acts of aid or assistance, or encouragement or incitement, are, in contemplation of law, guilty of the offence." U. S. v. Morrison, 1 Sumner, 449.

or declaration of every other; and that, the common design established, all things done to promote it are admissible in defence against each individual concerned.¹

One of the offences complete unless a mutiny actually occurs. The Article, in designating as offences the beginning, and joining in, a mutiny, evidently contemplates that a mutiny shall have been consummated.² A mutiny complete in fact must actually have existed to authorize the bringing to trial and accusing for an offence of this class. Thus an *attempt* to begin a mutiny, which has proved abortive, is not chargeable under this Article,³ but must be laid under the 62d.

Procedure under the Article—The charge. While the charge may be—"Beginning a mutiny," "Exciting a mutiny," "Joining in a mutiny," &c., or simply "Mutiny," the most satisfactory form in general, as covering all the different phases of the offence, will be—"Violation of the 22d Article of war;" the specification setting forth the facts relied upon as constituting the offence, with an allegation of the proper intent. Where, as usual, the mutiny is a concerted act, the charge is frequently made against all or the principal of the offenders being accused together and tried together accordingly.⁴

The evidence. It need only be added here that, as a foundation for establishing the criminality of the accused in any case, the fact that a mutiny actually took place should *first* be shown.⁵

The finding. Where only mutinous or disorderly conduct, without the necessary intent, is made out by the testimony, or where it appears that the accused attempted or endeavored to excite or induce a mutiny without succeeding, a finding of not guilty of the offence charged, but guilty of "conduct to the preju-

See Hough, 71; Simmons § 821; Pison & Col., 146; O'Brien, 298; De Hart, 349; U. S. v. Sharp, *ante*.

O'Brien, 71; G. C. M. O. 73, Dept. of the Mo., 1873.

See G. O. 36, 38, of 1864.

See G. C. M. O. 104, Dept. of Ky., 1865; G. O. 20, D. & A. of the 1., 1864; G. C. M. O. 521, War Dept., of 1865—for cases, respectively, of fifteen, twenty-one, and thirty-four enlisted men, jointly charged and tried as mutineers.

3 Greenl. Ev. § 92.

dice of good order and military discipline.

The sentence. This will ordinarily be more severe in time of war than in peace: in the late war it was repeatedly adjudged upon conviction. In cases of discretion, the court will naturally impose a more severe penalty to ringleaders, especially to those who are merely their followers. Two or more grades are associated together, and properly punish superiors more harshly than subordinates. Facts, exhibited in evidence, as that the crime was aggravated by a tyrannical or oppressive conduct, or by violence or severity, by an unwarrantable neglect to redress a wrong, or by drunkenness on the part of the commander, or

1. See cases in G. O. 104, 243, of 1864; O. 227 of 1864; Do. 318, 513, of 1865; Do. 40 of 1873; Do. 1, Div. of the South, Ky., 1865; Do. 4, Id., 1866; G. O. 87, 1866; Do. 20, Dept. & Army of the Tenn., 1864; 1865. In several of these cases the mutiny was committed by an officer or non-commissioned officer.

Earlier cases are those in G. O. of 1814. In the former the court, in sentencing the mutineers, ordered that his body be offered to the surgeon for dissection. In the still earlier case (1814) of the Tennessee, a sergeant and five privates were sentenced to be dismissed, and the others to be retained only for that period, instead of being held to be bound by the military laws. Papers, Military Affairs, vol. III, pp. 69-70. In the Pennsylvania line, (*ante*,) two sergeants were formally pardoned by Congress; they were the "principals" in the mutiny, "and no lives have been lost, and no property committed." 4 Jour. Cong.

In the recent case, in G. C. M. O. 12, scouts against the command of Col. E. A. M. captain and six soldiers were killed, and a corporal—were sentenced to be dismissed.

2. In connection with cases already mentioned, in G. O. 14, A.

discipline in the command—will properly be taken into consideration as going to extenuate the offence and reduce the measure of punishment.¹

TWENTY-THIRD ARTICLE.

1. Suppression of Mutiny. This Article is naturally considered under the two heads of the Suppression of existing mutiny and the Giving information of intended mutiny.² As to *suppression*—the Article, as is observed by Samuel,³ makes it a crime to simply “stand by” while a mutiny is being committed. “It is,” adds, “declared the positive and bidden duty of every officer and soldier, under the pain, in case of neglect, of the severest possible punishment, to aid, to the utmost of his ability, in quelling this dangerous and contagious crime.” O’Brien, as apposite to the injunction that the party shall use “his utmost endeavor,” etc., holds that “every officer is armed” by the Article “with statutory and unlimited powers,” and that “if his measures are stronger than necessary he cannot be punished; the law justifies him.”⁴ But this, as a general proposition, cannot be accepted. While, in extreme cases, an officer is warranted in employing the most rigorous means—in using a deadly weapon and taking force—for the suppression of a mutiny, he will not ordinarily thus

1. See G. O. 12 of 1855; Do. 104 of 1863; G. C. M. O. 50 of 1867; Samuel, 266; Harcourt, 17; DIGEST, 12, 13. So, while it is no *defense*, it may be considered, in mitigation of sentence, that the accused was not regularly enlisted (G. O. 32, Dept. of N. E. Va., 1861;) or that the recruiting officer made misrepresentations to him upon enlistment, Do. 71, Dept. of N. Mex., 1862;) or that he had been paid less than the stipulated amount of monthly pay. (Do. 29, Dept. of the South, 64.) While, as remarked by Gen. Canby, “nothing can *justify* the attempt to redress any real or fancied wrongs by the commission of one of the gravest military crimes,” (G. O. 71, N. Mex., above cited,) justice requires that if wrongs really existed, his punishment could be reduced in proportion. Compare, herewith, the case of the *Mutiny at the Nore*,” (1797,) originally incited by the fact that the *amen* of the navy had suffered from low pay, insufficient provisions, etc., and that their petitions for relief had not been duly considered.

2. It is to be understood that what is said under this Article as to mutiny applies substantially to “sedition”—a crime already defined under Art. 22.

3. Pages 258–9. And see Tytler, 187; Harcourt, 14.

4. Pages 73, 77.

5. Compare the naval case of the mutinous conspiracy on the U. S.

be warranted in a case of mutiny unaccompanied by violence or where less vehement methods will be entirely effectual.¹ The measures adopted, and especially the amount of force employed, should properly depend upon the circumstances of the case, and particularly upon the existing status, whether of war or peace. Means which, in war and before the enemy, would be not only justified but laudable, might, in peace, be without warrant and criminal, and commanding officers, in employing them, might become liable, for abuse of authority, not only to trial by court-martial but to indictment in a civil tribunal.

The term "utmost endeavor," as employed in the Article, is to be construed as having a relative bearing, the word "utmost"

Brig "Somers," in 1842, when three persons—Midshipman Spencer, (son of the then Secretary of War,) and a warrant officer and a seaman—were hung by order of Commander Mackenzie, after an investigation and recommendation by a council of officers. For this summary action Com. Mackenzie was brought to trial, in 1843, upon charges of abuse of authority and murder, and acquitted. 1 N. York Legal Observer, 371; Printed Trial, with Review by Jas. Fenimore Cooper. As to the authority of the master, in cases of mutiny, at maritime law, see *Roberts v. Eldridge*, 1 Sprague, 54.

1. DIGEST, 314. And see G. O. 53 of 1842, in regard to the treatment of private soldiers by their superiors, where it is enjoined by Gen. Scott that in a case of mutiny the proper course, if practicable to pursue it, is not to cut down even the ringleaders, but to seize and confine them. Also G. O. 32, Dept. of N. E. Va., 1861, in which it is declared that sixty-two mutineers—enlisted men of the same regiment—"are, with the approval of the General-in-Chief, hereby transferred in arrest from their regiment, as no longer worthy to serve with it, and will be sent to the Dry Tortugas, there to perform such fatigue-service as the officer commanding may assign them, until they shall, by their future conduct, show themselves worthy to bear arms." [Gen. McDowell.] Upon the subject of summary proceedings, involving the taking of life, in the suppression of mutiny, Samuel, (p. 268.) writes:—"When they are resorted to, it is requisite in every case, in order to justify the departure from legal forms, that it be clearly made out that the mutiny was flagrant, and that it called for strong and instant measures to put it down; and that the means used were not more violent than needed, and that it was not safe to wait for the trial and execution of the offenders by the ordinary course of military justice." In the case of the mutiny of the New Jersey Brigade, in January, 1781, where Washington, in his orders to Maj. Gen. Howe, directed: "If you succeed in compelling the revolted troops to a surrender, you will instantly execute a few of the most active and most incendiary leaders,"—two of the ringleaders were in fact executed, but not till after a "field court-martial" had been held, and they had "received sentence of death by the unanimous decree of the court." Sparks' Writings of Washington, vol. V pp. 381, 382, 386, 564.

as meaning the utmost that may properly be called for by the circumstances of the situation, and in view of the rank, command and abilities of the individual.¹

It is also to be observed that the authority, as well as the duty, involved by the Article, *ends with the suppression*. The mutiny having been effectually put down, no punishment can legally be inflicted upon the offenders except through the regular course of justice and the sentence of a court-martial.²

Reform and Redress. It may here incidentally be remarked that in connection with the suppression of a mutiny, it will be no more than just for the commander to remove as far as may be practicable the causes which led to the outbreak. Thus, where it has been occasioned either by defective discipline, oppressive treatment, the deprivation of a right, or the existence of any other real grievance, the commander, after first effectually suppressing the mutiny according to the injunction of the Article, may and properly should proceed to put an end to the abuse or to redress the wrong, either by his own orders or by making the necessary official representations to superior authority.³ In this connection the fact may well be recalled that a large proportion of the extended mutinies that have occurred among bodies of troops have had some color of reason in their inception, and might generally have been obviated had the proper authorities but appreciated the duty devolving upon military superiors of protecting soldiers in the enjoyment of their rights and privileges, of seeing that a hearing was given them and justice done them when aggrieved, and of duly considering their feelings when natural and reasonable.⁴

See O'Brien, 78 ; G. O. 4 of 1843.

See Samuel, 260, 261, 267; Hough, 80, 81; Harcourt, 15; O'Brien, 78.

"Having punished guilt and supported authority, it now becomes necessary to do justice." Gen. Washington, referring to the mutiny in the Jersey line. Sparks' Writings of Washington, vol. VII, p. 136.

Hough, (P.) 36-53, details a series of mutinies which occurred in India, and arose in great part from neglect to make regular payments, insufficiency of rations, variations from the terms of the contract of service, and even disregard of the religious principles and customs of the native troops. The most marked was the general mutiny and rebellion of 1857, when, to cite from Chambers, (Encyclopædia—"India,")

2. Giving Information. The Article further requires officers or soldiers "having knowledge of any intended mutiny, &c., shall, "without delay, give information thereof" "commanding officer;"—thus, in the words of Samuel Johnson, "to prevent an impending mutiny by crushing it in the bud, before it burst forth in its bitter and unwholesome fruit."

While the *suppression* of mutiny will in most cases be devolved more especially upon officers, the duty of *giving information* of the same will perhaps oftener devolve in the first instance upon the inferiors in rank. Thus Hough² observes that an intended mutiny "is more likely to be known to the non-commissioned officers of the regiment than to any other persons in it from their living in the same barracks with the men."

In view of the imperative injunction to act without delay, no officer or soldier can be permitted to exercise his own discretion as to whether he will or not impart the intelligence contemplated.³

Proof. To sustain a charge of a violation of the Article, in consideration, the following particulars should be proved, *viz.*—the existence of an actual mutiny, or of an intention to commit mutiny; the presence of the accused at the time of the mutiny, or the fact of his having come to the knowledge that one existed; the neglect or failure to use the proper efforts to suppress, or the neglect or failure to give the information, (or to do so without unreasonable delay,) to the commander.

It may be noted that officers or non-commissioned officers who "join in" a mutiny, in violation of Art. 22, will in general also be chargeable with the offence of not endeavoring to suppress a mutiny, in violation of Art. 23.

"the Enfield rifle and its greased cartridge were put into the hands of the Sepoys without explanation and precaution, and Genl. Anson, commander-in-chief, snubbed caste, and was against all concession the 'bestly prejudices' of the natives."

1. Page 259. And see Tytler, 187.

2. Page 81. And see cases of non-commissioned officers convicted of a violation of this Article, in not giving such information, &c.,—O. 16, Dept. of Ala., 1866; G. C. M. O. 81, 142, 147, Dept. of the Interior, 1868.

3. See Hough, (P.) 77.

TWENTY-FOURTH ARTICLE.

its General Effect. This Article, (which dates from the English codes of 1642 and 1688,¹) practically adopts the doctrine of the common law in regard to the suppression of affrays, extends it to cases of "quarrels" and "disorders," and applies it, under certain conditions, to the military state. Placed as the Article is in immediate connection with the provisions relating to mutiny and duelling, it may well be inferred that one of its main purposes was, by the summary proceeding which it authorizes, to put a stop to those contentions and irregularities, which, if not suppressed at the outset, might readily lead to these avoidable crimes.

The Common Law as to Affrays. At common law, a "fight" or "affray" is a fighting or hostile contention of two or more parties in public, to the terror of the citizens. Derived from the French *effrayer*, to frighten, the element of being frightening, and so threatening to the peace and security of law-abiding persons, is the gist of the definition. It is distinguished from an assault or assault and battery in that, besides being necessarily public, it is a mutual contention on the part of the actors, and not a mere violence or attempted violence committed against another, *in invitum*. Mere words or personal abuse cannot alone amount to this offence; to constitute an affray the words must be accompanied by acts. At the same time it is held not absolutely necessary to the offence that actual violence, as by wounding, blows, or other battery, should be inflicted upon the person, provided dangerous weapons are exhibited and sought or threatened to be used by one or more of the parties against the other or others.² All persons present engaged in aiding and abetting an affray are principals.³ An affray being a disturbance of the public peace, and it being

¹ See under "Twenty-Fifth Article"—*post*.

On the definition and nature of affray, see Coke, 3 Inst., 158; 1 Hawkins, c. 63, s. 1, 4; 4 Black. Com., 145; 1 Russell, 291; 2 Wharton, L. § 1551; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 1; Simpson v. State, 5 Yerg. 356; Hefflin v. Humph. 84; Duncan v. Com., 6 Dana, 295; Com. v. Mons, 6 J. J. M., 615; Hawkins v. State, 13 Ga. 322; O'Neill v. e, 16 Ala. 65; Childs v. State, 15 Ark. 205; Samuel, 399; Hough, 202.

Carlin v. State, 4 Yerg. 143.

the right as well as the duty of the citizen to quell or aid in quelling all breaches of the peace, the authority of private individuals to part and restrain persons engaged in an affray is fully recognized at law.¹

Application of the Principle in the Military Service.

An officer of the army is still a citizen and has the same summary power as any citizen forcibly to repress frays—a power which it is especially his right and duty to exercise in cases occurring in the army. Recognizing this, the Article, in its zeal for the order and discipline of the service, extends the power to the suppression of “quarrels” and “disorders.”³ By these designations, which are more general and colloquial in their use than the more technical term “frays,” are evidently intended any unruly contentions or disturbances in public among or by officers or soldiers, whether or not accompanied by violence employed or threatened.⁴ They may thus consist of mere wars of words, provided they are such as, if not presently quieted, would be likely to lead to blows or other overt acts of force.

By whom the Power may be Exercised. Construing the words—“*All officers of what condition soever*” with the words in the last clause—“*such officer or non-commissioned officer,*” it is clear that not only commissioned officers but sergeants and corporals are vested with the power to part, quell and arrest,

1. 1 Hawkins, c. 63, s. 11; 4 Black. Com., 145; 1 Bishop, C. P. § 166; Timothy v. Sampson, 1 C., M. & R. 762; Price v. Seeley, 10 Cl. & Fin. 28; Phillips v. Trull, 11 Johns. 387.

2. See Simmons § 1096-1100; Harcourt, 178; Pipon & Col., 190; Bowyer, Com. on Eng. Const., 499; Burdett v. Abbott, 4 Taunt. 449; G. O. 52, Dept. of the South, 1871.

3. As to the duty of an officer to use due diligence to prevent riot and disorder in his command, see remarks of Gen. Schofield in G. O. 104, Dept. of the Mo., 1863. In G. O. 63, Dept. of the Tenn., 1863, Gen. Hurlbut, in remarking that by Art. 24 officers are not only empowered but “required” to quell affrays, adds that the accused officer, in the case under review, was enabled to take the life of his commander, through the neglect of those who should have acted to interpose and put a stop to the contention. In G. O. 92, Dept. of the South, 1871, Gen. Terry properly holds that “an officer *under arrest* is not deprived of the authority conferred by this Article to quell frays or disorders.”

4. See Samuel, 400; O'Brien, 107. A riot, or tumultuous assemblage of persons who engage in acts of violence, will, if taken part in by officers or soldiers, be an aggravated “disorder” within the meaning of the Article.

without regard to the superiority in rank of the persons whom they may thus regulate and restrain.¹ An inferior, however, would not properly assume to exercise the authority to arrest a superior in the presence of a senior officer, unless indeed the latter was either himself concerned in the offence or conspicuously recreant in his duty on the occasion, or was incapacitated to act—
as by drunkenness.

It is further clear from the terms of the Article that the power conferred is one not attached to *command* but quite independent of it, since it may be exercised without regard to the regiment, company, &c., to which the persons offending may belong.

Mode of Exercise of the Power. To part affrayers and quell a fray or disorder, the officer may employ such means as may be requisite, resorting even to the use of a deadly weapon if other means fail or are inadequate. The action of an officer in repressing a disturbance which, if not at once subdued, may result in a mutiny or riot, should not be too strictly criticized; at the same time he is in no case authorized to use more force than may be reasonable under the circumstances, or to resort to blows or other violence where the object may be attained by summoning a guard and causing the arrest or confinement of at least the leaders of the outbreak.* Where such arrest, &c., has been ordered by an inferior officer or a non-commissioned officer, it will be, further, his duty, according to the terms of the Article, to report forthwith his action to the commanding officer of the person or persons arrested.

Proof—Defence. In proving either of the two specific offences, it should properly be made to appear that the accused

1. Samuel, 400; Hough, 203; Simmons § 357; Griffiths, 25; O'Brien, 107. The leading English case under this Article is that of Lieut. Col. Hog, who was placed in arrest by a Captain of his regiment for disorderly conduct on duty resulting from drunkenness. James, 839; Simmons § 357; Hough, (P.) 123.

It may be noted that the *power* implies a *duty*. Thus Tytler, (p. 196,) observes that an officer who stands by and witnesses an affray or disorder without exerting the authority conveyed by the Article, "must be considered as aiding and abetting the principal offenders."

2. "The force to be employed in quelling an affray or maintaining the peace is that only which is necessary to secure and subdue the offenders. It * * * must be such force as is preventive in its character, and must not exceed the strict necessity of the case requiring such acts of prevention." G. O. 4 of 1843. [J. C. Spencer, Sec. Var.]

heard and understood the order, and knew that the person giving it was a commissioned, (or a non-commissioned,) officer of the army. A defence, interposed by the accused, that he had no such understanding or knowledge will receive support from the fact, if such be the case, that the officer was not in uniform, and belonged to another regiment, &c., of the command. As indicated by Hough,¹ it is no sufficient defence that the accused finally did comply with the order given, provided he first refused to obey it or resisted the officer.

Punishment. The fact, however, of the ultimate compliance with the order will, if voluntary, properly be admissible in evidence as going to the measure of the punishment, this being left discretionary with the court. So will any other fact tending to extenuate the culpability of the accused,—as that, in defying or resisting the order, he was only acting in combination with or at the instigation of his superiors in rank.

XII. THE TWENTY-FIFTH, TWENTY-SIXTH, TWENTY-SEVENTH, AND TWENTY-EIGHTH ARTICLES.

[CHALLENGES TO DUELS, &C.]

"ART. 25. *No officer or soldier shall use any reproachful or provoking speeches or gestures to another. Any officer who so offends shall be put in arrest. Any soldier who so offends shall be confined, and required to ask pardon of the party offended, in the presence of his commanding officer.*

"ART. 26. *No officer or soldier shall send a challenge to another officer or soldier to fight a duel, or accept a challenge so sent. Any officer who so offends shall be dismissed from the service. Any soldier who so offends shall suffer such punishment as a court-martial may direct.*

"ART. 27. *Any officer or non-commissioned officer, commanding a guard, who, knowingly and willingly, suffers any person to go forth to fight a duel, shall be punished as a challenger; and all seconds or promoters of duels, and carriers of challenges to fight duels, shall be deemed principals, and punished accordingly. It shall be the duty of any officer commanding an army, regiment,*

rop, battery, company, post, or detachment, who knows or has reason to believe that a challenge has been given or accepted by any officer or enlisted man under his command, immediately to arrest the offender and bring him to trial.

"ART. 28. Any officer or soldier who upbraids another officer or soldier for refusing a challenge shall himself be punished as a challenger; and all officers and soldiers are hereby discharged from any disgrace or opinion of disadvantage which might arise from their having refused to accept challenges, as they will only have acted in obedience to the law, and have done their duty as good soldiers, who subject themselves to discipline.

TWENTY-FIFTH ARTICLE.

Origin. The proper original of this Article, as also of Arts. 26, 27 and 28, is the comprehensive and important Art. 34 of the Code of James II, of which some of the provisions were early derived from Art. 84 of Gustavus Adolphus, through intermediate Articles of 1639 and 1642.

Its Purpose and Effect. The 11th Article of the code of 175, in prohibiting the sending of challenges and fighting of duels, is prefaced with the brief injunction that—"no officer or soldier shall use any reproachful or provoking speeches or gestures to another." The succeeding code of 1776 formed this injunction into a separate Article substantially as it has since remained. Its main object, as indicated by its origin, evidently is to check such manifestations of a hostile temper as, by inducing retaliation, might lead to duels or other disorders. The Article does not contemplate a judicial investigation, but is a rule of discipline confined to measures of prevention and restraint.¹ In practice, however, the provision enjoining the *asking of pardon* of soldiers is rarely, if ever, resorted to;² the course pursued with regard either to officers or soldiers, who may be culpable as indicated in the first clause, being to place them in arrest and prefer charges with a view to trial—as in any other case of offence.

1. See, as to the legal significance of this Article, Samuel, 351-2, 2-6; Hough, 175-7; O'Brien, 100; DIGEST, 13.

2. Samuel, (p. 373,) refers to it as "an inoperative letter."

If indeed the proceeding specified in the Article is pursued, and the offender, having been afforded a *locus pœnitentie* by being placed in arrest, presently tenders an apology or makes other suitable amends, and is thereupon released, without further action, by the commanding officer, he cannot in general properly be brought to trial at a subsequent period. Samuel¹ cites the case of Capt. Burdett, in which the accused was acquitted because it "appeared in the course of the evidence" that his offence had been previously thus atoned for under the corresponding British article.

TWENTY-SIXTH ARTICLE.

Purpose of Arts. 26-28. This Article and the two following aim at preventing duelling in the army, by rendering liable to immediate arrest, trial and severe punishment, all military persons without distinction, who send or accept challenges, act as seconds, knowingly carry challenges or acceptances, or otherwise promote duels, as well as commanders of guards who neglect to stop parties going out to fight duels, and even persons who upbraid others with refusing to accept challenges.²

1. Page 376.

2. It is noticeable that the specific offence of *fighting a duel* is not in terms mentioned in our code, and could in general therefore only be charged as a disorder or breach of discipline under the 62d Article.

But this offence, and those specifically made punishable in Arts. 26-28, are now of rare occurrence, though once by no means unfrequent. The author of the "Military Law of England," published in 1810, in referring to the practice of duelling in the British army, writes:—"There are cases in which, notwithstanding the explicit declarations of the written law, the custom of the service would seem to demand a reference to arms." So lately also as in 1828, McNaghten, while condemning duelling on principle, adds, (p. 237,) that he "must pronounce it an indispensable custom, things being constituted as they are at present." And he refers to "three of the first officers" then in the army—"the Duke of York, the Marquis of Hastings and the Marquis of Londonderry"—as having "been concerned as principals or seconds in duels and allowed to go unscathed." In the next year the Duke of Wellington added himself to this list by his duel with the Earl of Winchelsea. In James' Precedents there are reported nearly fifty cases of officers tried for engaging in duels, sending challenges, or otherwise promoting such proceedings. The instances in our service have been much fewer: those published in the following General Orders comprising nearly that have taken place, *viz.*:—G. O. of May 22, 1814; Do. of Sept. 1817; Do. 39, 41 of 1835; Do. 2 of 1858; Do. 330 of 1863; Do. 11. An. of the Potomac, 1861; Do. 46, Dept. of the Gulf, 1863; Do. 223, Dep.

The Common Law on the Subject of Duels and Challenges. The practice of duelling, "grounded," as Lord Bacon resses it,¹ "upon a false conceit of honor," or, as described Tytler,² "upon mistaken sentiments of honor, and supported false shame," is, with the incidental offences of sending a challenge, acting as second, &c., denounced as criminal, alike by the common law and by statute.³ By the common law, the taking of life in a duel is murder in the killer,⁴ whatever may have been the passion or provocation of the fight and notwithstanding the absence of actual homicidal intent.⁵ So is it also murder in the seconds of both parties⁶ and others who are present abetting the act;⁷

1 *Mo.*, 1864; *Do.* 48, *Id.*, 1870; *Do.* 130, *Id.*, 1872; *Do.* 33, *Dept. Army of the Tenn.*, 1864; *Do.* 13, *Northern Dept.*, 1865. In a more recent case, in *G. C. M. O.* 22 of 1879, of an alleged challenging, the accused was acquitted. See, further, case of three Lieutenants, condemned of sending, carrying and accepting a challenge, in *G. O.* 139, *A. G. O.*, Richmond, 1863.

2 Howell, *S. T.*, 1037.

3 Page 192.

4 See 2 Wharton, *C. L.* § 1767, 1768, as to the origin of duelling and growth of the law on the subject.

5 "Wherever two persons in cool blood meet and fight on a present quarrel and one of them is killed, the other is guilty of murder." Hawkins, *c.* 31, *s.* 21. "Deliberate duelling, if death ensueth, is, in the eye of the law, murder." Foster, 297. And see 1 Hale, 452; 4 Black. *Com.* 344; *Taverner's Case*, 3 Bulst. 171; *Regina v. Young*, 8 *C. & P.* 644; Wharton, *C. L.* § 482, 1768; 2 Bishop, *C. L.* § 311; *State v. Underwood*, *Mo.* 40.

6 It is no defence that the party killed was the challenger, or the aggressor; or that the party indicted "meant not to kill but only to disarm his adversary." 1 Hawkins, *c.* 31, *s.* 21; 1 Hale, 443; 1 Russell, 527; *Taverner's Case*, *ante*; *King v. Rice*, 3 *East*, 581; *Com. v. Hooper*, *Thach.*

7 "The seconds also are equally guilty." *Regina v. Young*, *ante*. 1 see 1 Hawkins, *c.* 31, *s.* 31; 1 Russell, 529; Wharton, *C. L.* § 1768; Bishop, *C. L.* § 311; *Regina v. Cuddy*, 1 *C. & K.* 210; *Do. v. Barronet*, *Mo.* 51. In the last case it was held to be no defence that the duel was a "fair" one. The criminal liability of the second of the deceased is no less than that of the second of the other party. *Regina v. Young*; *v. Cuddy*.

"With respect to others" (than the seconds,) "shown to be present the question is, did they give their aid and assistance by their attendance and encouragement of the principals in the contest. Mere presence will not be sufficient, but if they sustain the principals either by advice or assistance, or go to the ground for the purpose of encouraging and forwarding the unlawful conflict, although they do not say or do anything, yet if they are present, assisting and encouraging by their

all such persons being treated as principals equally with t who fires the fatal shot.¹

At common law also the mere challenging of a person t a duel, though none be fought, is held to be a high misdemeanor as an act tending to a serious breach of the peace.² So c of challenges, (knowingly such,) and other promoters of as well as provokers of the same, are held indictable for: meanor at common law.³

Civil Statute Law. In this country, the offences of l in a duel, of fighting duels, of sending, conveying and acc challenges, and of seconding, promoting, or prompting chall are denounced by special statute in a considerable proport the States, and "specific and graduated punishments", as to the guilty parties.⁴

Military offenders will thus in general be amenable t military charges and to criminal indictment.⁵

presence at the moment when the fatal shot is fired, they are in la of the crime of murder." *Regina v. Young*. "This extends eve surgeon." 2 Bishop, C. L. § 311.

1. Wharton, C. L. § 1768; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 311; Hough, 191 v. State, 1 Yerg. 232. And see *Regina v. Cuddy*, ante; also cas sign McGuire and three other officers convicted of murder for part in a fatal duel. James, 545; Hough, (P.) 260.

2. See case, (in James, p. 47,) of Major Armstrong, indicted f lencing Maj. Gen. Sir Eyre Coote.

3. 1 Hawkins, c. 63, s. 3; 4 Black. Com., 150; 1 Russel, 297 ton, C. L. § 1768, 1773; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 312.

4. Wharton, C. L. § 1769. The laws of Ohio contain an es clear and comprehensive statute on the subject of this class of (1 R. S., 412.) The statute for the District of Columbia, (R. S. of Col., Secs. 1164, 1165,) by which the crime of killing in a made punishable only by imprisonment in a penitentiary for a t exceeding ten years, is but an illustration of the inadequate code of that locality.

In Massachusetts, a *surgeon* present at the fighting of a due pressly made punishable by fine and imprisonment, and disqual for office under the State for five years. (Gen. Stats., c. 160 § 1 in New York, (3 R. S., 962,) surgeons present at duels are pu by imprisonment in the State Prison.

5. See Samuel, 403; also *King v. Rice*, 3 East, 581, and othe (mentioned in 2 McArthur, 176, 181; Kennedy, 267; James, 47; Simmons § 835, note,) of military and naval officers subjected before criminal courts, for taking part in duels as principals or:

Offences made Punishable by Art. 26. This Article makes punishable the two specific offences of Sending a challenge and Accepting a challenge.

Sending a Challenge—*What constitutes a challenge.*

Wharton¹ defines a *duel* to be—"a concerted fight between two persons, with deadly weapons, the object of which is claimed to be the satisfaction of wounded honor." Its elements thus are,

it must be premeditated and deliberate, as distinguished from sudden rencontre in warm blood;² must contemplate the employment of weapons from the use of which homicide may be expected as a natural and probable consequence;³ and must be received to, ostensibly at least, with a view to obtaining amends for an affront which has or is conceived to have injuriously affected character or offended the sensibility of the person concerned man of honor.⁴ A *challenge* is a written or verbal⁵ demand, request, or invitation to another to unite in such a combat.⁶

No particular form of words is necessary to constitute a challenge in law.⁷ The *intention* of the language employed is the material point. Mere bullying or defiant language does not amount to a challenge;⁸ nor do words conveying only a willingness to fight or a readiness to accept a challenge from the other party.⁹ The communication, taking the whole together, must import an intention to invite to a duel the person to whom it is addressed; if it does so, it is a challenge, whatever be the expression used. The invitation indeed need not be tendered in direct

Wharton, C. L. § 1767.

Id., § 1770.

See Id., § 1771; Com. v. Hooper, Thach. 405.

See Wharton, C. L. § 1772.

Coke, 3 Inst. 158; 1 Hawkins, c. 63, s. 3; 4 Black. Com. 150; 2 Wharton, C. L. § 314; Samuel, 384; Hough, 183. In *State v. Strickland*, 10 Mo. & McC. 181, the court observes that a challenge *may* be given in open, public manner, but that this is "very unusual indeed."

"The offence consists in the invitation to fight." *State v. Taylor*, 10 Cal. 108. And see 2 Bishop, C. L. § 314.

Wharton, C. L. § 1771, 1777; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 314; Samuel, 384; O'Brien, 104; G. O. 2 of 1858.

Com. v. Hart, 6 J. J. Marsh. 119; Ivey v. State, 12 Ala. 277.

See *Com. v. Tibbs*, 1 Dana, 524; *Aulger v. People*, 34 Ills. 486. His character are such expressions as—"I am responsible for my acts," "You know where to find me," &c.

and express terms; it is sufficient if it be conveyed indirectly by implication.¹ Written challenges are indeed often phrased in language designed to be ambiguous, and to disguise the meaning of the writer so that he may be enabled to evade the criminal liability attaching to his act.² In such cases the construction given to the supposed challenge by the party to whom it is addressed, and the response made or action taken by him upon receiving it, are especially significant as interpreting the true meaning of the communication.³ But the stilted and affected version in which challenges are usually expressed is quite familiar to the courts and the public, and their true object is generally transparent.⁴ Where, however, ambiguously or obscurely worded or containing technical terms, they may be explained by reference to the so-called duelling code,⁵ or by the circumstance

1. It is not necessary that the writing should expressly state that a meeting is requested with a view to fight, or describe the weapon proposed to be employed. *Com. v. Hart, ante*. Nor need it refer to the origin of the difficulty between the parties, or the matter of the supposed grievance of the challenger. *Hough, 183*. Nor need it indicate the place where the duel is proposed to be fought. 2 *Bishop, C. P. § 384*.

The most common form of challenge commences with a reference to some ground of difference or complaint, demands satisfaction thereof from the party addressed, and refers him to a "friend," (often the bearer of the challenge,) who is declared to be authorized to arrange the preliminaries. See the forms in the following cases:—*State v. Curran, 2 Speers, 249*; *Com. v. Rowan, 3 Dana, 395*; *Com. v. Pope, 418*; *State v. Gibbons, 1 South, 41*; *State v. Dupont, 2 McC. 334*; *v. Levy, 2 Wheeler, C. C. 245*; *G. O. 330 of 1863*. In *G. O. 11, At the Potomac, 1861*, the invitation is expressed in the form of a demand for fight. In *G. O. 33, Dept. & Army of the Tenn., 1864*, the demand for satisfaction, which is, in terms, "to fight a duel," is accompanied by a threat to "brand" the party if he does not accept.

2. *Samuel, 384, 386*. "As challenges are in violation of law, and duelling is not uncommonly exercised to avoid a plain expression of purpose. But these are artifices to defeat the law which courts will never favor." *G. O. 2 of 1858*. (*Col. Sumner's case*.)

3. See *Com. v. Hart*; *Com. v. Pope, ante*; *Hough, 183*, and "When the meaning is so clear as to be intelligible to the party who receives the challenge, it answers its purpose, and is intelligible to the tribunal which tries it." *G. O. 2 of 1858*.

4. In *Com. v. Levy, 2 Wheeler, C. C., 245*, where the challenger informed the party addressed that he "considered himself insulted," and expected the satisfaction of a gentleman," the Court observe: "what does this mean? Everybody knows that it means—'I challenge you to fight a duel with me with deadly weapons.'"

5. *State v. Gibbon, 1 South, 51*.

: controversy and the acts, conversation, correspondence, &c., the parties, as exhibited in evidence.¹

The sending. The early British Article from which ours was derived characterized the offence as the *giving or sending* of a challenge. The American Article, however, has, from the beginning, employed only the word *send*, and the present form declares that "*no officer or soldier shall send a challenge,*" &c., and further makes punishable the accepting of a challenge "*so sent.*" It is considered therefore safer to hold that the *giving* of a challenge, directly and in person, by the challenger himself, (which must be an act of rare occurrence,) is not an offence included within the Article but one which would properly be charged under Art. 62.

The Article forbids the sending of a challenge "*to another officer or soldier,*" and it is clear that the offence is equally committed whether the challenge be addressed to a superior or an inferior in rank: it is also clear that the sending of a challenge to a civilian would not be within the Article.²

The sending may be shown by evidence of a sending by a messenger, whether a *second* or other person, or by any other reasonable and direct mode of transmission, as the mail. Actual delivery or receipt of the challenge need not be established, the offence being complete without it.³ But the sending, where a receipt is not proved, must be shown to have been such as would reasonably have resulted in a delivery. If the mail was resorted to the prosecution should be prepared to prove that the communication was put into the post office or other proper place of deposit for letters, correctly addressed, and the postage pre-paid if necessary; for the law will then presume that it was duly forwarded to its destination.⁴ It is not necessary to show that the challenge was either accepted or declined by the person to whom

² Bishop, C. P. § 309; Com. v. Hart; Com. v. Pope; Hough, 183; O'Brien, 104. The admissions and material statements of seconds are competent both for and against their principals, for the purpose of ascertaining more intelligible the intentions of the latter. Wharton, C. L. 78; 2 Bishop, C. P. § 308; State v. Dupont, 2 McC. 334; State v. Wor, 1 So. Ca., 108. See Chapter XVIII—"Res Gestæ."

O'Brien, 104.

Rex v. Williams, 2 Camp. 506; Wharton, C. L. § 1774; 2 Bishop, § 307.

Bank v. Hart, 3 Day, 491.

it was sent.¹ The non-acceptance of the challenge exonerates the sender; to the completeness of quite immaterial whether or not an offence be committed by the other party. It is equally immaterial to the question of the accused whether or not a duel actually took place.²

Proof of the sending of a written challenge is completed by the production of the writing, with evidence in the handwriting of the accused, or was penned by him, or his dictation or request.³ Where the writing cannot be produced, as where it is in the possession of the opposite party, proof of its substance will be sufficient.⁴

Accepting a Challenge. This offence may be proved by proof of an acceptance either oral or written, communicated personally or dispatched by a messenger, or by other reasonably certain agency—as the mail. Where the acceptance is by written missive, the actual delivery of the missive need not be shown. Whether a duel resulted is immaterial. Where a written acceptance is put in evidence, the same evidence of the writing, &c., is to be made as in the instance of a challenge.⁵

No form of words is necessary to constitute an acceptance, the only requisite to legal acceptance being that the defendant must have an intent to accede to the invitation conveyed by the challenge. As in the case of a challenge, parol evidence may be used to explain obscure expressions in an alleged written acceptance, and to determine whether it be an acceptance in law.

Defence — Punishment. The sending or accepting of a challenge being *prima facie* established, the only defence is that the accused, where the facts are not denied, would not be guilty of a criminal intent was wanting—as, for example, that a criminal intent was wanting—as, for example, that the act was not proposed, but that the proceeding was a mere jest or joke.⁶ No *provocation*, however great, can be a defence.

1. Samuel, 383; Hough, 183, note 7; O'Brien, 104.
2. Coke, 3 Inst., 158.
3. Com. v. Levy, Wheeler, C. C., 245; Hough, 184.
4. See Com. v. Hooper, Thach. 400, 407.
5. See the form of the acceptance in Com. v. Rowan.
6. See Com. v. Hart, 6 J. J. M., 119; Ivey v. State, Wharton, C. L. § 1771.

fence.¹ Circumstances, however, of provocation, may be admitted in evidence, as apposite, in a case of an enlisted man, to the question of the proper measure of punishment, and, in a case of an officer, (where the sentence is mandatory,) as material to the action of the reviewing officer in approving, disapproving, mitigating, &c., the penalty of dismissal.

TWENTY-SEVENTH ARTICLE.

The Classes of Offenders made Punishable. This Article, conforming to the common-law doctrine already noticed, makes punishable as *principals*, *i. e.* in the same manner as the challenger whose offence is the subject of the last Article, not only active agents in the matter of challenges and duels, but some who are merely passive also—placing them all upon the same plane of punishability.² The several classes indicated, and the nature of their offences, will be considered in the following order:—1. Seconds; 2. Carriers of challenges; 3. Promoters of duels; 4. Commanders of guards suffering persons to go out to fight duels.

Seconds. That which peculiarly characterizes the second is acting in a *representative* capacity for his principal: if a party does not sustain this character, he may be a “promoter” but cannot properly be charged as a second. Moreover, to make him second, such capacity must be, not voluntary and gratuitous merely, but assumed at the instance or request of the principal with his acquiescence. It need not, however, be directly proved that the principal requested or procured the accused to assist him as second:³ the fact that he was named in the challenge as a “friend;” that he declared himself to be a second, or performed his duties in that capacity which were accepted as such by the principal; or that he was viewed and treated with as such, in the arrangements, by the parties and seconds generally,—such facts and circumstances would ordinarily afford a sufficient presumption of his authority and representative capacity in the case.

¹ Hough, 184; Taverner's Case, 3 Bulst. 171. “The aggravating circumstances under which the challenge was made are no excuse for the offence.” G. O. 33, Dept. & Army of the Tenn., 1864.

² Samuel, 387, 390. And see O'Brien, 105.

³ See Case of Lieut. Ivers, tried for requiring a non-commissioned officer to attend him as a second. James, 227.

This acting of the second must, to constitute the offence, be either *at* a duel, or with a view to the fighting of one. It is not considered absolutely essential that there should be an actual duel, or, if there be one, that the accused should be present at it. If, in his character of second, he actively participate in making preparations for the duel, as by conveying the challenge or response, conducting the correspondence, arranging the preliminaries in connection with the second of the other party, providing the weapons, &c., he will bring himself within the description "seconds or promoters of duels," as employed in the Article.¹

Proof. Here, as under the charge of sending a challenge, the admissions and material statements of the principals, as well as of the other second or seconds, having reference to the subject of the duel, will be admissible in evidence against (or for) the accused, as illustrating the nature and intent of his acts.² The "duelling code" may also be put in proof, to indicate what acts and service pertain to the functions of a second.

Defence. The accused may show in defence that he consents to assume the rôle of second, for the purpose not of promoting but of preventing a duel by composing the strife or otherwise, and that he acted solely with this object. Or he may show that, having once consented to be second, he presently withdrew without having taken any part in preparing for a hostile meeting.

Carriers. By the designation—"carriers of challenges to fight duels,"³ the Article no doubt mainly contemplates persons *other than seconds* who convey invitations to fight duels from one party to another, though seconds who perform this office are, of course, chargeable as carriers.

To constitute the offence of the carrier, the carrying must be performed *knowingly*, *i. e.* the accused must know that the mes-

1. Compare *Com. v. Boott*, Thach. 394.

2. Wharton, C. L. § 1778; 2 Bishop, C. P. § 308; *Com. v. Boott*, Thach., 392-3.

3. It is noticeable that *carriers of acceptances* are not specifically made punishable by this Article. One, however, carrying, knowingly, an acceptance of a challenge would be chargeable under this article as a promoter of a duel, or under Art. 62. In the criminal code of the District of Columbia, the carrying of an acceptance is made punishable in the same manner as the carrying of a challenge. (R. S., Dist. Col., Sec. 1164.)

is a challenge to fight a duel.¹ If the challenge is verbal, it is indeed scarcely but known its nature; it is therefore mostly the case of written challenges that specific proof of knowledge is required to be produced. In proving knowledge, it is not necessary to show that the accused was informed of the character or contents of the paper by the sender: he may learn of it from other persons; from having himself been present at the quarrel of parties, or been acquainted with the circumstances of their offence or of their personal relations; from common report; even from the manner and tone of the sender provided these are so significant that they could not reasonably be misunderstood.² It is only essential that the carrier should have the knowledge before the carriage be completed.

The offence is consummated by the *delivery* of the challenge. I have seen that the offence of the *challenger* is completed upon putting the challenge in the way of being delivered, whether actually delivered or not. But the carrier, to become amenable to the Article, must actually deliver the challenge, for until he does so there is a *locus pœnitentiæ*, and, if he repents himself of his assumed mission before it is fully performed, there is no offence and he is not chargeable. It may be added that it is not absolutely necessary that there should be a delivery to the party *person*: if, in his absence, the challenge be delivered, for him, by some person through whom it is reasonable to suppose that it will presently come into his hands, the carriage will be complete.³

Promoters of Duels. This is a general designation, including any person who, by stimulating the resentments of another, or by appeals to his pride, shame, sense of "honor" so called, or otherwise, (and whether by direct and pointed means or by art insinuation,) purposely incites him to tender or to accept challenge,⁴ or, in any way, other than by acting as a second,

"Otherwise," observes Samuel, "he might be as little culpable as an ordinary letter-carrier who cannot be presumed to understand the contents of the correspondence that passes, almost mechanically, through his hands." And see Hough, 199, 200; O'Brien, 107; U. S. v. Shackelton, 3 Cranch C., 178.

See Hough, 200.

See Hough, 184.

The term *promoters* "applies to parties who, whether concerned

or the carrier of a challenge, designedly furthers or contributes to the fighting of the duel. Promoters are thus distinguished from seconds and such carriers; for though these are in effect promoters of duels, (and might, without material error, be charged as such,') they have at the same time a distinct and specific rôle, while that of the promoter proper is more general and not confined to any particular act or province. Carriers of *acceptances* are clearly promoters and so chargeable.*

As it is not necessary, to complete the offence of the *second* or the *carrier*, that a duel should actually transpire; so, it is not deemed absolutely essential to the offence of the *promoter* that there should ensue a hostile meeting, or even that a challenge should pass between the parties. While there will ordinarily have been either a duel, or a formal challenging, where a case of promoting presents itself calling for a specific charge under this Article,³ all that is *requisite* is that the acts of the alleged promoter should have been done with the intention to induce or aid in inducing a duel, and should have had a direct tendency to induce one. The intent—where it exists—will in general be suffi-

or not in the matter of dispute, take any share in urging or provoking those implicated in it to send to one or the other a defiance to the field." Samuel, 394. This writer adds:—"The meddling and mischievous spirit which is ready to mingle itself in the misunderstandings and quarrels of others, is as often prejudicial to the best interests of society as the bad passions of individuals immediately and principally engaged." And see, further, pp. 394-5, a curious recital by the author of the forms in which such spirit may "interpose itself." See also the case of Lieut. Dillon and others, (Samuel, 396; Hough, 190; James, 545.) of whom it is said in the General Order of publication that—"Their interference was equally uncalled for and unnecessary, and tended, not, as might have been expected, to settle the trivial difference which existed between their brother officers, but to magnify its importance and to instigate them to the measure which has led to so fatal a result." And see other cases of instigating and promoting, in James, 397, 437.

1. Note the forms of charge in G. C. M. O. 130, Dept. of the Mo., 1872.
2. See note *ante*, p. 848.
3. In the only precedent which the author has found of *promoting* charged specifically as such and independently of seconding,—that published in G. O. 223, Dept. of the Mo., 1864,—there was an actual duel, the cases of both principals being promulgated in the same Order.
4. That this *intent* is the gist of the offence, see *State v. Gibbons*, 1 South. 49. And compare the analogous cases of the common-law misdemeanor of endeavoring to provoke another to send a challenge, referred to in 1 Russell, 297. The promoting of a challenging of *one* *self* by the party addressed, (as done in one of these cases—*Ret. a.*

y presumable from the acts themselves without further
ice.

es in which one of the Principals is a Civilian. cases, it may be added, (by way of general remark applica-
the offences of the three classes of persons above consid-
are clearly equally within the spirit and letter of the Arti-
are cases in which both principals are military persons.¹

Commanders of Guards. The Article further makes pun-
e "*as a challenger, any officer or non-commissioned officer,*
inding a guard, who, knowingly and willingly, suffers any
1 to go forth to fight a duel." The general term "any
1" would appear to include civilians as well as military
is,² and, among the latter, persons of any grade; so that a
ommissioned officer or officer of inferior rank would be
eable under the Article for suffering a *superior* officer of
ver rank "to go forth," &c. The commander of the guard
not merely forbid the person to go forth from the post,
1, &c., but *stop* him, and by force if necessary:³ if he neg-
to do so, he commits the offence here designated. To
ete the criminal act or omission the accused must know
he intent of the person, in going forth, is to fight a duel.
ource of the knowledge is immaterial: "it is not necessary
ie party should be seen to pass the guard."⁴ If therefore
ocused is shown to have received from reliable persons
c and timely information of an intended going forth, which
1 fact effected, and which he made no proper attempt to stop
vent, he will justly be considered to have had the requisite
edge, and be held amenable to trial under the Article, pro-
the locality of the going forth was within the lines of his
or command.

Duty Imposed by the Last Clause of the Article.
junction with which the Article concludes is, in substance,

s, 6 East, 464.) would appear to be as much within the general
ation of the Article as a promoting of the challenging of another.
ee O'Brien, 106.

amuel, 388; Hough, 197; Id., (P.) 264; O'Brien, 105.

ough, 197; Id., (P.) 264.

ough, (P.) 265.

only declaratory of the duty incumbent upon commanders in general to arrest and bring to trial military offenders. From use, however, of the word "*immediately*" it is evident that design of the provision was to impress this obligation with special emphasis, and to make it imperative upon commanders to check at the outset any scheme or combination looking to a delay by the prompt apprehension and prosecution of the principal offenders. A commander, therefore, will properly perform his duty under the Article by placing under arrest without delay the person or parties concerned, and, where he is not himself empowered to convene a suitable court for their trial, by preferring charge against them for a violation of the 26th Article, and forwarding the same to the proper superior: for the latter it will remain in order a court as soon as practicable.

TWENTY-EIGHTH ARTICLE.

Object and Effect. The object of this Article, (which repeats almost word for word a provision of the Code of James II, is to "protect and save the honor of officers and soldiers, who shall have courage to refuse the acceptance of challenges, from every species of reproach which might attend the refusal;" and as a most effective means of attaining this object, it punishes with dismissal any one who "upbraids"—*i. e.* reproaches, censures, inveighs against, stigmatizes—another for not entertaining an invitation to fight a duel. The most familiar form indeed of upbraiding at the period of the adoption of the Article was "posting" as a coward, by means of a written or printed public notice,²—an offence still made punishable in the statutes especially of the older States. Thus, in the laws of Massachusetts,³ it is

1. Samuel, 402.

2. See the precedent of indictment for the offence of posting in 3 Chitty, C. L., 853. A pointed instance, in our military history, of posting, was that, in 1808, of John Randolph by Brig. Gen. Wilkinson, who, when Randolph, after having unjustly assailed him in Congress, refused to accept his challenge, posted him as a "prevaricating, base, calumnious scoundrel and coward." The leading case tried by court-martial is that of Ast. Surg. Todsen, who was convicted of posting a captain, who had refused him "satisfaction," as "a liar and a coward." G. O. 20 of 1826.

3. General Stats. of Mass., c. 160 § 14. And see a similar statute of New York—3 Rev. Sts., 972; also Act of Congress of Feb. 20, 1839, relating to the District of Columbia—R. S., Dist. Col. § 1166.

provided that—"Whoever posts another, or in writing or print uses any reproachful or contemptuous language to or concerning another, for not fighting a duel, or for not sending or accepting challenge, shall be punished by imprisonment," &c.

It is quite clear, however, that the upbraiding intended by the Article need not be in writing but may be *oral* as well.¹

The offence committed is moreover equally within the Article whether the upbraider is the original challenger himself or some other person. An instance of upbraiding by the former is that argued in the case of Col. Sumner,² where the officer who had ordered the challenge is alleged to have addressed the other party in the following terms:—"Sir: I received with great surprise your note of last evening, and have only to say to you that a man who could insult a brother officer from an official covert, and afterwards refuse to apologize, or to give him that satisfaction which he had a right to demand, is utterly unworthy of any farther notice from me." This case also illustrates the point that, under the general provision of the Article, the upbraiding may be conveyed in a private communication as well as expressed in the public manner.

Proof. If the upbraiding was contained in a written communication, the same should be set out in full or in substance in the charge,³ and proved by showing either that it is in the handwriting of the accused, or was written for him and at his instance. Where it is thus connected with the accused as his personal act, it will not be necessary to prove the actual receipt of the communication by the party upbraided; it will be sufficient to show, as in the case of sending a written challenge, that the accused duly acted in the way of being properly forwarded to such party.

XIII. THE TWENTY-NINTH AND THIRTIETH ARTICLES.

[REDRRESS OF WRONGS IN REGIMENTS, &C.]

"ART. 29. *Any officer who thinks himself wronged by the commanding officer of his regiment, and, upon due application to such commander, is refused redress, may complain to the general com-*

1. See case in G. C. M. O. 48, Dept. of the Mo., 1870; also Lieut. Wood's case, James, 752.

2. G. O. 2 of 1858. And see Lieut. Wood's case, *ante*.

3. See precedent in 3 Chitty, C. L., 853.

manding in the State or Territory where such regimentation. The general shall examine into said complaint, proper measures for redressing the wrong complained of, shall, as soon as possible, transmit to the Department of true statement of such complaint, with the proceedings had

"ART. 30. Any soldier who thinks himself wronged by cer may complain to the commanding officer of his regiment shall summon a regimental court-martial for the doing of the complainant. Either party may appeal from such regimental court-martial to a general court-martial; but if, upon such hearing, the appeal appears to be groundless and vexatious, the party appealing shall be punished at the discretion of said court-martial."

TWENTY-NINTH ARTICLE.

Construction. This is an antiquated provision,¹ now of slight significance, and may be very briefly treated.

"Wronged." This undefined but general term is intended as including any and all injuries or grievances that may be caused by a superior to an inferior officer in his military capacity or relation, and that are, at the same time, proper subjects for redress, *ceptible of being remedied without a resort to a trial by court-martial.* Clode² expresses the opinion, in regard to the corresponding British Article, that its object is to provide for the settlement of professional disputes;³ and Hough,³ that it relates to "matters of a professional or private nature." A more restrictive construction would be that the wrongs contemplated are denials of rights or just privileges, or other arbitrary proceedings in contravention of military usage.

"By the commanding officer of his regiment." This description has been persistently retained from the original while in the corresponding British Article the more comprehensive term, "his commanding officer," was after a time substituted. De Hart⁴ was of opinion that our own Article should be

1. See Art. 57 of the Code of James II.

2. M. L., 79.

3. Page 229.

4. Pages 78, 253.

ply to cases of wrongs received from any superior officer; that being a remedial statute it might properly be thus freely construed. But while such a statute is to be liberally interpreted as to its general provisions, its specific terms cannot be extended beyond their distinctive import; and the present Article, being expressly confined to cases of wrongs on the part of *regimental* commanders, must be held to have no wider or other application. The Article however merely indicates a routine of action, which may, and in practice is, substantially pursued in cases of complaints general, with the difference only that it is commonly simplified by a more direct form of communication.

Procedure under the Article. This is in brief as follows. The aggrieved officer having first specifically applied in writing for redress to the regimental commander, and been refused, or granted but partial, relief, complains by way of appeal, in writing, to the general commanding, (commonly the department commander,) setting forth the facts of the case, and stating the substance of the original application and its result. This complaint properly transmitted through the regimental commander, who makes such endorsement thereon, or communication therewith, he may deem desirable, and the general is thus possessed of both sides of the controversy. If the regimental commander declines or unreasonably delays to forward the appeal, the officer is authorized to transmit it directly. Either the complainant or the regimental commander may accompany his statement by affidavits or statements of other persons, or by documentary or other written evidence. The general will examine the statements, &c., and consider the arguments, and, if he concludes that a wrong has been done, will proceed to redress the same, so far as it may be authorized and practicable for him to do so, issuing for the purpose the proper order or orders; and will thereupon forward to the War Department the report indicated in the Article. If not empowered himself to afford redress, he will properly, in his report, favorably commend the claim to the Secretary of War. On the other hand, if he considers that no wrong was done by the regimental commander, he will formally disallow the complaint, leaving the officer, if not satisfied, to appeal to higher authority.¹

¹ On the general subject of the legal effect of this Article and the procedure under it, the student is referred to Samuel, 499-503; Sim-

A regimental officer, it is to be remarked, is not *required* to pursue the routine outlined in this Article. Like any other officer, who has been refused redress for a supposed grievance against his commanding officer, he may address an appeal through proper channels directly to the Secretary of War, by whom it will commonly be referred to the chief of one of the staff corps or to the division or department commander, &c., for report, and in due course disposed of. This is the more usual form of proceeding, the Article, *as such*, being rarely availed of.

THIRTIETH ARTICLE.

An Inadequate Provision. This Article, which, (dating originally from the code of James II.,¹) has not been materially modified since 1806, is also a provision of comparatively slight value in the code. It entitles indeed a soldier, "who thinks himself wronged by any officer," to a hearing before a court of regiment, and, if he is not satisfied with the result, to an appeal to a higher court; but the remedy is practically limited to cases arising in regiments; the courts, so far as relates to the matter of redress, are merely investigating bodies without defined powers and the Article fails to indicate what classes of wrongs they may consider, or what authority may be exercised by commanders carrying out their conclusions. Moreover, the effect of the third clause contained in the last clause of the Article must rather be to discourage soldiers from seeking relief under it. It has thus been found inadequate in practice, and is comparatively rarely availed of. Rather than resort to the cumbrous and precarious proceedings which it provides, enlisted men prefer in general to address their claims, through the proper channels, to the Department Commander or Secretary of War, for authoritative and final adjustment.

Construction—"Who thinks himself wronged." In the absence of any definition of this term in the Article, the authorities have construed it as referring mainly to such wrongs as result from mistake of fact, misapprehension of law, or want of

mons §§369-371; Hough, 229, 236; Stocqueler's "British Officer," 236; Clode, M. L., 79; Maltby, 147; O'Brien, 121-2, 307; De Hart, 78, 253-6; Benét, 170-2; G. O. 1 of 1856.

1. See Arts. 50 and 51 of that Code.

ment on the part of the officer in regard to some matter connected with the "internal economy," as Samuel¹ expresses it, of command. Errors in the *accounts* of the soldier, as in denying him a right to pay or to an allowance, pecuniary or other, to which he is entitled, or in entering stoppages against to which he should not be subjected, are held to be peculiarly the class of 'wrongs' for which redress is intended to be here afforded.² So, such grievances as the imposition of unreasonable tax,³ the assigning of improper duties, the withholding of customary privileges, may, it is believed, sometimes be sought to be remedied by this proceeding, where the fault of the officer consists in a misapprehension of facts or lack of discretion rather than in an intention to injure or oppress.

It is where the act of the officer, as complained of, amounts only to a specific military *offence*, it cannot in general properly form the basis of a complaint under this Article. The regimental court here authorized can neither *try* nor *punish*; and in attempting to pass judicially upon a military offence, it would be transcending altogether its province.⁴

The Article is also held to include only grievances which are *personal* to the soldier, and therefore not such acts as merely affect discipline in general;⁵ and further, and especially, to contemplate wrongs only as are *susceptible of being specifically redressed* by executive act, in the due course of military administration.⁶

Page 504.

Hough, 239; G. O. 13 of 1843; Maccomb, 90; O'Brien, 127; Deane, 258.

G. O. 13 of 1843; O'Brien, 127, 129.

See Adye, 105; Tytler, 336; Samuel, 505-6; Simmons § 342; Maltby, 90; O'Brien, 123, 128, 129, 287; Maltby, 133; De Hart, 257, 265; G. O. 13 of 1843; 1 Opins. At. Gen., 167. Simmons writes: "It would be competent to a regimental court, thus summoned, to enter upon inquiry as to a charge of tyranny and oppression, or ill treatment, brought forward against the captain or officer commanding a company." The leading case, in our law, of Private Delap, (G. O. 13 of 1843.) The Secretary of War expressly held that a *striking* of a soldier by an officer was not of the class of wrongs which could properly be made the subject of a complaint under the present article. The action in Flynn's case, (G. O. 5, Hdqrs. 13th Inf., 1874,) where such a striking was initiated by a regimental court under this Article, (though supported in an early case in G. O. 5 of 1827,) must thus be regarded as erroneous.

See Samuel, 504-5; O'Brien, 123.

"It is evidently a personal wrong of such a nature as is capable of redress that the Article has in view." Samuel, 505. And see O'Brien, 123.

include officers of whatever rank, and whether of a company or regiment as the complainant, it is from the history¹ and text of the Article that it is templated that it would be mainly the acts of and especially *company commanders* for which sought. It would seem indeed that the officer complainant, should be within the command of a commander, since otherwise the latter could not give a specific recommendation made by the regiment. It is scarcely to be remarked that the "officer" must be *i. e.* must not have resigned, been dismissed, &c. before the complaint is presented and heard; otherwise it is tainted.

"May complain to the commanding officer." These words, and those which immediately follow, indicate that the present Article, like the last, is applicable to cases arising in regiments. A company commander alone can entertain a complaint and submit it under the Article: a post commander, where he is not a regimental commander, cannot legally exercise the

"Who shall summon a regimental commander." This provision is construed by the authorities as compulsory upon the commander to convene the court-martial if the complainant is of right to have it ordered.

er receiving the complaint.¹ This general injunction, however, of the Article is to be viewed as subject to the condition that the matter of the complaint be within its purview: if the thing complained of is not one which the regimental court is competent to entertain, the commander will properly decline to convene it.

The "*regimental court*" here indicated is, it should be remarked, not properly a *court* at all. It does not try an accused on a charge of a military offence, nor does it acquit, convict, sentence. It merely, as has already been noticed, investigates and expresses an opinion, and thus resembles a court of inquiry or board much more nearly than a court-martial.²

"For the doing of justice to the complainant." Inasmuch as the so-called "court" provided by the Article has not the powers of a court, and as no regimental court is in any event empowered to try a commissioned officer, it is clear that the "doing of justice" here contemplated cannot consist, the complaint being sustained, in the awarding of a *penalty* in any form whatever. To require the officer, for example, to pay a fine or make apology, would be as foreign to the legal province of the court as it would be for it to impose upon him the punishment of confinement. Moreover, being itself without executive authority, it cannot compel or order the officer to redress the grievance suffered, restore the right denied, or otherwise rehabilitate or compensate the complainant.³ In the absence, therefore, of any indi-

1. "This provision is imperative and compulsory. It is not a matter of favor or discretion but of right, and is strictly *ex debito justitiæ*." *1 Opins. At. Gen.*, 167. "The commanding officer of the regiment has discretion to exercise, but is absolutely obliged to assemble a regimental court-martial forthwith, or in such reasonable time as the case may admit." *Samuel*, 505. And see *Simmons* § 341; *O'Brien*, 123; *De Hart*, 264.

2. *Macomb*, (p. 90,) in comparing this court to a court of inquiry, says—"or it may be viewed as an *arbitration* or *board* called on to adjust and settle any differences arising in the settlement of accounts between the captain and his men." And see *1 Opins. At. Gen.*, 167; *Maltby*, 134; *De Hart*, 258. In the British Articles a regimental court of inquiry was substituted for the regimental court-martial, in 1860. *Simmons* § 341: as to the present law, see *Army Act* § 43.

3. "The court are armed with no authority to award the restitution of any rights of which the individual has been deprived." *Hough*, 241. And see *Maltby*, 133.

cation in the Article as to the form of the doing of justice in court, it is clear that it can, regularly, consist only in the expression of an opinion to the effect that the complaint is sustained and that the wrong complained of should be redressed in a mode specified, or—on the other hand—that the complaint is not sustained and no substantial wrong has been suffered.¹ The conclusion being duly approved by the regimental commander, neither party appealing, the proper orders for effectuating the conclusion are issued *by the commander* and “justice” is done in the case.²

“Either party may appeal,” &c. It is agreed by the authorities that an absolute right of appeal is here conveyed; either party not acquiescing in the determination of the court is *entitled* to have ordered a further hearing by a general court-martial.³ No time being specified within which the right may be asserted, the general rule of reasonableness is to be applied, and an appeal not claimed within a *reasonable time* may in general be regarded as *waived*.⁴

“Upon such second hearing.” The term “hearing” is well employed, since the proceeding before the general court-martial is a hearing.

1. See Samuel, 505; Tytler, 336; Simmons § 342; Macomb, O'Brien, 123; De Hart, 265.

2. “The colonel or commanding officer, who appoints the regimental court, will have to see, if he approves the same, that the decision is carried into execution.” Samuel, 506. “It will then be the duty of the commanding officer of the regiment to see the restitution of the wrong of the party complaining, or justice done him.” Hough, 240. See O'Brien, 128; De Hart, 265.

3. “Either party has an absolute right of appeal.” De Hart, 265. And see O'Brien, 286; Maltby, 135; Macomb, 89; Tytler, 335. Also, in this connection, the remarks of Gen. Augur, in G. C. M. Dept. of the Mo., 1884, as follows:—“The right of appeal from the decision of a regimental court-martial to a superior one is the right of every soldier in the Army, and ought to be maintained untrammelled by any resentment on the part of the officer whose acts or decisions are thus either expressly or impliedly questioned. To throw any obstacle in the way of such appeal or to visit its exercise with confinement or threat of punishment, in the opinion of the Commanding General, does violence alike to discipline, justice and good order in the Army.”

4. “Though no period is laid down within which an appeal may be made, it is clear that it ought to be brought as soon after the decision of the regimental court-martial as possible; for some of the necessities may die, or be absent, and thus, in some cases, render it impracticable.” Hough, (P.) 770.

more a *trial* in the legal sense of the word than that which taken place before the regimental court, but is simply a re-entation of the case before a body of superior degree and bers. The details of the hearing and the action of the court on will be referred to under the head of the "Procedure."

If * * * the appeal appears to be groundless and vexatious, the party appealing shall be punished at the discretion of said general court-martial." A "ground-

' appeal may be said to be one without any substantial foundation: if an appeal have any material reason or merit, however slight, it cannot be said to be groundless. A "vexatious" appeal would be one characterized by a malevolent or litigious intent, or taken with the intent of annoying the opposite party or withholding the redress due him, or one so entirely without probable cause or reasonable ground that to persist in the proceeding can result in nothing but embarrassment and trouble to the adversary to the military authorities.'

Even in awarding the punishment authorized by the Article, the court does not exercise the power of *sentence* as upon a *trial*. The authority employed rather resembles that resorted to by judicial tribunals for the punishment of *contempts*, and the appropriate penalty will therefore in general be—to be reprimanded or to make an apology, or, in a graver case, to be confined or to forfeit pay, or both, for a limited period.

Procedure. The procedure under the Article may be briefly sketched as follows. The soldier addresses his complaint in writing, preferably through his company commander, to the regimental commander, setting forth the particulars of his grievance or grievances. It is the sentiment of the authorities that where several soldiers have the same grievance, they should not be permitted to combine in a joint complaint,² since to allow this would only encourage a mutinous or insubordinate feeling, but that

The mere fact that an appeal has not been successful will not preclude the party amenable to punishment, since he may have proceeded honestly and in good faith, or have failed only because of the absence of material testimony. See Samuel, 507-9; Hough, 241; O'Brien, De Hart, 266.

"As by signing a round robin, or any other paper, stating a general complaint." Hough, 240.

sees fit, follows with a defence or explanation as a party may be sworn and testify if he desires. The right of cross-examination as at a trial, and a closing statement or argument. The court then states, and frames its conclusion to the effect that either is or is not substantiated, with a further order to be held sustained—of the particular form of the opinion of the court, should be extended. The court then reported to the regimental commander, with the same—as he can scarcely fail to do if that is reasonable—will issue the proper order for carrying out the determination of the court.⁴

If an appeal be taken, the appellant applies through the same channels to the department or other proper authority, which is thereupon ordered to be held before a general court-martial, which is thereupon ordered to be held before a court,⁵ except that, if the officer be the appellant, the initiative, is first heard, &c. The investigation is then held *de novo*, and upon independent testimony.

1. See Samuel, 504; Simmons § 372; Hough, 240; Hart, 267.

2. Such action at this stage would be "irregular." 1 Opins. At. Gen., 168.

3. Hough, (P.) 763; Hughes, 106; De Hart, 269;

4. In Flynn's case, heretofore noted, the commander ordered that unless the captain (who

roduced may be the same as or different from that introduced the first hearing, but it is now offered as original and precisely if it had not been before presented. By the consent of parties, deed, the record of testimony received by the regimental court may be admitted before the general court; but the latter court considers the evidence and makes up its opinion entirely independently of the action of the regimental court and unaffected by it. The opinion is to the effect that the appeal is or is not sustained,—that the conclusion of the regimental court is either affirmed or overruled,—with such additional expression of views to the merits of the case as may be deemed desirable. If the appeal be found “groundless and vexatious,” an appropriate punishment is adjudged. The proceedings are then finally acted upon by the commander, and his action is duly promulgated in Orders. Any officer or soldier who neglects to abide by or comply with the orders of a regimental or superior commander duly issued for the purpose of effectuating the decision of a regimental or general court assembled under the present Article, is liable to charges and trial as an offender against military discipline.

IV. THE THIRTY-FIRST, THIRTY-SECOND, THIRTY-THIRD, THIRTY-FOURTH, THIRTY-FIFTH, THIRTY-SIXTH, THIRTY-SEVENTH AND FORTIETH ARTICLES.

[UNAUTHORIZED ABSENCES AND OTHER MINOR OFFENCES.]

“ART. 31. Any officer or soldier who lies out of his quarters, garrison, or camp, without leave from his superior officer, shall be punished as a court-martial may direct.

“ART. 32. Any soldier who absents himself from his troop, battery, company, or detachment, without leave from his commanding officer, shall be punished as a court-martial may direct.

“ART. 33. Any officer or soldier who fails, except when prevented by sickness or other necessity, to repair, at the fixed time, to the place of parade, exercise, or other rendezvous appointed by his commanding officer, or goes from the same, without leave from his commanding officer, before he is dismissed or relieved, shall be punished as a court-martial may direct.

“ART. 34. Any soldier who is found one mile from camp, without leave in writing from his commanding officer, shall be punished as a court-martial may direct.

"ART. 35. *Any soldier who fails to retire to his quarters or tent at the beating of retreat, shall be punished according to the nature of his offence.*

"ART. 36. *No soldier belonging to any regiment, troop, battery, or company, shall hire another to do his duty for him, or be excused from duty, except in cases of sickness, disability, or leave of absence. Every such soldier found guilty of hiring his duty, and the person so hired to do another's duty, shall be punished as a court-martial may direct.*

"ART. 37. *Every non-commissioned officer who connives at such hiring of duty shall be reduced. Every officer who knows and allows such practices shall be punished as a court-martial may direct.*

"ART. 40. *Any officer or soldier who quits guard, platoon, or division, without leave from his superior officer, except in a case of urgent necessity, shall be punished as a court-martial may direct."*

THIRTY-FIRST ARTICLE.

General Effect and Construction. The offence particularized in this Article, (which is derived from Art. 27 of the Code of James II,) consists in the unauthorized sleeping or retiring for the night, (or some considerable portion of the same,) at a dwelling-house, inn, or other lodging or place, situated outside—the distance is immaterial—of the proper limits of the camp, post, &c., at which the offender is stationed or quartered. The bad example as well as the hazard attending such an offence, when committed by officers serving with troops in time of war, must be obvious.¹ At any time, it is a species of absenteeism on their part, which, if often indulged in, must tend to destroy the rapport which should exist between officer and men, and to loosen the bonds of military discipline. The unsteady effect of such a practice, if permitted to soldiers, need not be enlarged upon. Samuel² refers to it as being an offence—"to the injury of the civil neighborhood and the corruption of the morals and dis-

1. See the case published in G. O. 23, Dept. of the Ohio, 1864, of an officer convicted of an aggravated violation of this Article,—in that he "did lie out of quarters, at a distance of four miles more or less from his command, without the knowledge or consent of his commanding officer, at a time when the presence of every officer was required at his post, the enemy being supposed to be in close proximity, and did not return until an advanced hour on the following morning, his regiment having marched during his absence."

2. Page 544.

ne of the camp;" and Hough² observes—"On service, it is icularly required that all should sleep in their own beds, that may be easily called out in case of need."

he "superior officer," without whose leave the act cannot be used, will, as a general rule, properly be the commander of regiment, detachment, post, &c.² The "leave," to constitute a defence in the case of an officer, need only be a verbal one: in the case of a soldier, it should, in view of the terms of Art. be in writing, where the place at which he is to be allowed pass the night is distant a mile or more from the camp or ters.

THIRTY-SECOND ARTICLE.

nature of the Offence. This Article makes punishable the ice of *absence without leave* in general, in contradistinction to ain special forms of such absence which are made the subjects ther Articles, and especially Arts. 31, 33, 34 and 40.³ The nce here contemplated may be one unauthorized *ab initio*, or which consists in not duly returning at the expiration of a or furlough. The Article, it will be observed, refers only *soldiers*. Absence without leave by an *officer* is not made punishable in the code as a specific offence, and is therefore in general e charged under Art. 62.

Proof. That the absence was "without leave" should be ved affirmatively; it cannot in general properly be presumed a the mere fact of absence.⁴ The fact of the unauthorized nce should be shown by some witness or witnesses—as the manding officer, a company officer, a first sergeant, &c.—perally cognizant of the same. The statement of a witness that accused was "reported" absent without leave would be hear- and insufficient. Similarly would an entry on a morning

Page 286. And see O'Brien, 93.

See Hough, 286.

'The absence without leave contemplated by Art. 32 is an absence camp, post, or station. Absence from roll-call is a mere neglect of , not a technical *absence without leave* under this Article.' G. O. 14, Fifth Mil. Dist., 1868.

In G. O. 292 of 1863, the Secretary of War, in disapproving certain edings, says:—"The accused was tried for absence without leave, here is no evidence whatever of an *unauthorized* absence, it not ap- ing but that he might have absented himself with full authority."

by being taken prisoner by the latter, may also be a defence;³ but where he has once deliberately absented without authority, the fact that he was detained longer than he had intended by some agency beyond his control is no sufficient answer to the charge.

Punishment. The brief unauthorized absences are, in time of peace, most commonly referred to military courts by which they are usually visited with a fine or of pay or other light sentence. The offence, aggravated and thus call for a serious punishment, where the absence was long protracted, in absenting himself, has abandoned an enlisted soldier, or where the offence was committed in time of war, in the words of Attorney General Legaré, "the absence is a violation of law, little short of desertion."⁴

Consequences by Operation of Law. Upon unauthorized absence, as upon desertion, there are entailed, by law, certain consequences, declared in par. 220 of the Regulations, as follows:—"Enlisted men who absent themselves from their regiments, companies, or posts, without authority, without satisfactory excuse, shall forfeit all pay and allowances."

1. In a case in G. C. M. O. 10, Dept. of the Platte, an absence without leave was disapproved by Gen. O. The evidence of guilt is the statement of a witness that

ing during such absence, and shall also, upon conviction by court-martial, make good the time lost by such absence."

THIRTY-THIRD ARTICLE.

Effect and Construction. This Article, in its first clause, enjoins the punctual attendance of officer and soldier at parade, drill, guard, inspection, muster, or other exercise, duty, or ceremony of the camp or station, as also at any other place at which he may be ordered to report himself as one of a body. The words—"or other rendezvous," &c., says Hough,¹ "mean any place appointed," by the proper commander, "for the assembly of officers, non-commissioned officers, or soldiers for any duty."

The offence of 'failing to appear at the fixed time,' &c., may consist either in non-attending or attending tardily. The excuse of *sickness* should, of course, as remarked by Samuel,² be made out by the testimony of a medical officer. In the case of the offence, specified in the second clause of the Article, of 'going from' the place of exercise or assembly, "nothing," Samuel observes,³ "will serve as a defence but the absolute leave of the commanding officer."³

THIRTY-FOURTH ARTICLE.

Purpose and Effect. This Article, says Simmons,⁴ "is of very ancient standing,⁵ and appears to have been framed chiefly to prevent marauding, by checking inclination to straggle at great distances from camp during the time soldiers may be unemployed, and when they may be lawfully absent." Samuel observes⁶ that "a mile is mentioned as a convenient place, probably, for all purposes of exercise and refreshment. But," he adds, "though this is the prescribed limit beyond which soldiers cannot pass without particular permission, it does not follow that they may not be guilty of a military offence, being found at a

1. Page 288.

2. Page 548. And see O'Brien, 94.

3. Page 548.

4. § 183. And see Samuel, 543.

5. It comes from Art. 20 of James II. •

6. Pages 542-3. And see O'Brien, 93.

less distance from the camp than the point described in the article; since it is clear that no one has a right at any time to his place, or the ordinarily fixed bounds, without leave from an officer." It is only, however, where the distance is at least a mile from the limits of the camp or line of sentinels that the mission must be in writing: where the distance is less than a mile the authority may be verbal merely.² In other words, a distance of a mile may be regarded as fixing the limits within which, as a general rule, a mere verbal authority to be obeyed shall be legally operative in the case of a soldier.

THIRTY-FIFTH ARTICLE.

Purpose and Effect. The 'retirement' here indicated by Hough,³ is that "of soldiers to their usual place of rest at the night; to insure which the names of the men of each company are called over at retreat-beating." "The Article," says Samuel,⁴ "is calculated to secure the regular and orderly return of men to the posts wherein they are or ought to be at the night, thus keeping the forces together to act on an emergent occasion. * * * The return of troops to their quarters at a reasonable time," he adds, "has another advantage: it gives an habit of retirement to rest at an early hour, conducive to the refreshment and health of the soldiery." The writer cites, further,⁴ from Sutcliffe's "Combination" the following old order which, in its spirit, is applicable to the army of the present times:—"All manner of persons within the camp or garrison after the watch is set, shall repair to their quarter and then observe the silence that every man may rest. All stragglers and tumultuous persons, that are taken abroad after that time, shall be committed to prison, and there abide until their cause be examined by the officers of justice, and order taken for their punishment or discharge." "missing."

In our service the "retreat" is usually beaten by drum and sounded by bugle, at sunset.

1. See Hough, 285.

2. Page 287.

3. Page 545-6. And see O'Brien, 94.

4. Page 546-7.

THIRTY-SIXTH ARTICLE.

Nature of the Offences—*Hiring to do duty.* Of the provision on this subject in the original British Article, Samuel writes,¹ that it was “framed for the purpose of obviating an abuse which had for some time previously prevailed, and in a very notorious degree, among soldiers quartered in the metropolis or its vicinity, who, being able to find there constant and more profitable employment than in the military service of the country, in work or labor on the Thames, or in the numerous yards and wharfs upon its banks, engaged their comrades to undertake, for a certain proportion of pay, the particular routine of military duty which they would otherwise be obliged to perform.”

The consideration paid or given, or agreed to be paid or given—whether pecuniary or otherwise—for the doing of the duty by the party hired, is of course immaterial.²

The offence indicated is a rare one in our service. In an Order of the Department of the Missouri³ is published a case of a soldier convicted of a violation of this Article in hiring another enlisted man to walk his post as a sentinel, while the accused took occasion to desert—an instance which forcibly illustrates the use of the prohibition of the Article.

Being excused from duty. This offence consists in procuring one's self to be excused from a military duty for any cause other than those specified in the Article, or upon a false pretence of the existence of one of these causes. The “sickness” or “disability” which shall constitute an excuse from duty will of course, as a general rule, properly be established by the testimony of a certificate of a medical officer of the command or of the army.

THIRTY-SEVENTH ARTICLE.

Purpose and Effect. According to Samuel,⁴ this Article, which is supplementary to that last considered, was evoked by the existence of a practice, on the part of officers at an early

period, of consenting to the hiring of duty, upon the condition of receiving a pecuniary consideration, to be derived from deductions from the soldier's "pay or profits."

If, as says Hough,¹ such a practice were sanctioned, two men would in fact be required to perform the duty assigned to one.

This and the previous Article, besides being judicious rules of discipline, illustrate one of the aims of the military law, as a law not only of justice but of honor, *viz.* to preclude the subsisting of anything like a mercenary transaction or relation between officers and enlisted men.

FORTIETH ARTICLE.

Effect and Construction. The main object of this Article, in the view of Samuel,² is to keep united the military bodies indicated, and thus secure their efficiency. It is now, however, an antiquated provision, and without significance except in so far as it relates to the offence of 'quitting his guard' by an officer or soldier. This offence has been occasionally made the subject of a charge, and a few rulings upon the Article, with especial reference to this part of it, are to be found in the General Orders. Thus in one Order³ the quitting of his guard without authority by an *officer of the guard* is commented upon as a grave instance of offence under this Article. In a case in another Order,⁴ it is ruled that the description—"any officer," &c., applies to an *officer of the day*, "the guard mounted under his direction in the morning" being "deemed 'his guard' in the sense of the Article." In a further case⁵ a conviction under the Article is disapproved because the specification did "not allege the absence of urgent necessity."

It may be noted that this term—"urgent necessity," is evidently of the same import as the words—"sickness or other necessity," employed in another of the Articles of this class, the 33d.⁶

It may also be added that the word "guard" is not to be construed as limited to the regular daily camp or post guard, but as

1. Page 291.

2. Page 550. And see O'Brien, 95.

3. G. C. M. O. 142, Dept. of the Mo., 1871.

4. G. O. 71, Second Mil. Dist., 1867.

5. G. O. 48, Dept. of Ark., 1864.

6. See Hough, 292.

including any formal guard—as an escort guard,¹ guard for prisoners, &c.

XV. THE THIRTY-EIGHTH ARTICLE.

[DRUNKENNESS ON DUTY.]

“ART. 38. *Any officer who is found drunk on his guard, party, or other duty, shall be dismissed from the service. Any soldier who so offends shall suffer such punishment as a court-martial may direct. No court-martial shall sentence any soldier to be branded, marked, or tattooed.*”

Origin. This provision, of which the original in our code is Art. 20 of 1775, may be traced, so far as pertains to drunkenness on the part of guards or sentinels, to Art. 51 of the Code of Gustavus Adolphus.

Construction. The principal questions which have arisen under this Article have been raised upon the meaning of the terms—“found on,” “drunk,” and “duty.” To determine in what consists the specific offence, it will be necessary to interpret these several expressions.

“*Found on.*” From the use of these words it is to be implied that the drunkenness of the offender must exhibit itself after he has entered upon, and while he is on, the duty.² The Article does not require that the accused shall have become drunk, but that he shall have been found, *i. e.* discovered or perceived, to be drunk, when on the duty, and it does not therefore necessarily follow that his drunkenness shall have commenced after the duty has been entered upon. To permit an officer or soldier, when inebriated, to go upon any duty of importance, while in general involving an injustice to the individual, is also a reprehensible act and a military offence in the superior who knowingly suffers it.³ But the fact that he was already intoxi-

1. See G. O. 48, Dept. of Ark., 1864.

2. Samuel, 551; O'Brien, 136.

3. See G. O. 21, Dept. of Cal., 1869; Do. 14, Id., 1871; Do. 51, Dept. of the East, 1869; G. C. M. O. 5, Id., 1871; Do. 20, Dept. of Texas, 1866; G. C. M. O. 12, Id., 1880; Do. 23, Dept. of Dakota, 1881; DISTRICT, 16; also remarks of Gen. Pope in G. C. M. O. 111, Dept. of Cal., 1885.

cated cannot render the party himself any the less legally liable under the Article, if, after having entered upon the duty, his intoxication continues and his condition is detected.¹

But, on the other hand, a soldier, (or officer,) is not "found" drunk in the sense of the Article, if he is simply discovered to be drunk when ordered, or otherwise required, to go upon the duty, upon which, because of his condition, he does not enter at all. His offence is then chargeable not under this but under the 62d Article.

"Drunk." The state of drunkenness contemplated by the Article may be said to be one which incapacitates the officer or soldier, mentally or physically, for the proper performance of the duty upon which he has entered.² There are of course various grades of intoxication, and, under those which are less pronounced, the party may be able to perform the duty imperfectly—to get through it after a fashion but not *properly*. In any such case he is in general to be held to be "drunk" in the sense of the Article equally as if he were totally incapacitated; a due, proper, and full execution being that which is required of him, and his offence being complete where, by becoming intoxicated, he has rendered himself either more or less incompetent for the same.³ And, as a general rule, in proportion as the duty is diffi-

1. G. O. 11, Dept. of La., 1869; G. C. M. O. 113, Dept. of the Ma., 1873; Do. 12, Dept. of Texas, 1880; DIGEST, 16.

2. See Samuel, 551; Hough, 295; O'Brien, 136; also Orders cited in next note.

3. In G. C. M. O. 33 of 1875, a finding upon a specification to a charge, under this Article, of "guilty excepting the words 'did become drunk,' and substituting therefor 'did become under the influence of intoxicating liquor,'" was disapproved by the Secretary of War, (as drawing too fine a distinction for the practical administration of justice,—see DIGEST, 18,) and the general rule is laid down that—"Any such intoxication as is sufficient to sensibly impair the rational and free exercise of the mental or physical abilities, is drunkenness within the meaning of the law." In G. O. 53, 98, Army of the Potomac, 1862, it is said on this subject: "Unfitness may be more or less complete; but to be intoxicated *at all* unfits a man either to give an order or to execute it."
* * * "Nothing can be more erroneous than to suppose that as long as an officer is not drunk to insensibility—a condition, moreover, in which he is far less apt to do mischief than when he is simply drunk enough to be indiscreet—he is not drunk at all. The fullest possession of his faculties, by every officer, is necessary to fit him to discharge his duties properly. These duties are not so simple as to be within the competency of a half-sober person." (Gen. McClellan.) And see re-

or important,¹ and especially in time of war,² a less degree of intoxication may be held sufficient to constitute the offence. Where the party is in fact qualified to perform the duty, as it intended to be, or should be, performed, the circumstance that enlivened or made dull or unwell by his indulgence, will not render him chargeable under the Article.³

It should be observed that it is not essential that the drunkenness be caused by the drinking of spirituous beverages. As is remarked by Simmons,⁴ the offence is complete whether the party found drunk be "under the influence of liquor, *opium*, or *any intoxicating drug or thing*."

Duty. The connection in which this term is employed—guard, party, or other duty," has at times induced the impression that only such duty was meant as was similar in its nature to guard duty; that is to say some regular and stated duty for which an officer or soldier has been formally *detailed*. But the ruling in an early General Order of the War Department,⁵ that the Article had "reference solely to duties of detail," was overruled in a later Order,⁶ in which it was held by the Secretary of War that the omission from the present Article, after the word "duty," of the words "*under arms*," which were contained in the original

of Gen. Augur in G. O. 33, Dept. of the Platte, 1871. In G. C. M. O. 13, Dept. of the Mo., 1882, Gen. Pope refers to the unsatisfactory result of a court in not finding an officer guilty under this Article, as recently owing to the fact that—"while the accused was always more or less under the influence of alcohol, he never quite reached the gut."

In G. C. M. O. 21, Dept. of the Mo., 1870, Gen. Schofield notes that—"it is not necessary to prove an officer so drunk as to be unable to walk, or to exercise in some degree his mental faculties, to convict him of being drunk on duty." In G. O. 48, Dept. of Va. & No. 1864, it is held not to be necessary "in order to be drunk" that an officer must be in such a condition that he cannot *ride*." That drunkenness, intoxication, and inebriation are synonymous terms, see G. O. 18, Army of the Potomac, 1862; 1 Opins. At. Gen., 296.

As where the duty is that of commander of a separate post. G. O. 21, Dept. of the Mo., 1870.

See G. O. 57, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1863; Do. 2, 48, Id., 1864, 5, Id., 1865.

See O'Brien, 136, 309.

§ 136. And see Hough, (P.) 208; James, 60; also cases in G. O. 1851; G. C. M. O. 49 of 1883.

G. O. 59 of 1843.

G. O. 7 of 1856.

codes of 1775 and 1776, was "*with intention to include all descriptions and circumstances of duty.*" In a third Order¹ this second interpretation of the Article was expressly affirmed, and it was remarked that "the omission of the words '*under arms*' remove one restriction without introducing a new one," and that "the general words '*or other duty*' provide for all actual occasions of duty." Upon this authoritative construction, which has been quite generally followed in practice, it may be held to be the law that not only is drunkenness on guard, drill, police, parade, inspection, muster, court-martial,² or any other duty or exercise of routine, fully within the contemplation of the Article, but also drunkenness upon any occasion of duty properly devolved upon an officer or soldier by reason of his office, command, rank, or general military obligation.³

Continuous duty. While the term "on duty" can scarcely be regarded as so broad or comprehensive, in respect to the periods or occasions embraced, as the phrase "in the line of duty," employed in statutes relating to pensions, bounty and the like,⁴ there are yet some instances recognized by the authorities, where officers or soldiers, by reason of the peculiar nature of their office or duty, are considered to be continuously, or during business or working hours, on duty, and thus amenable to charges under this Article if becoming intoxicated during such period. Within this description have been classed *post commanders*⁵ and *post surgeons*,⁶ who are in general liable to be called upon for duty at any time during at least the business hours of the day. So a *post* or *dépôt quartermaster* would ordinarily be similarly amenable during any of the hours in which he may properly be

1. G. O. 5 of 1857.

2. See G. O. 58 of 1831; G. C. M. O. 53 of 1882.

3. As to drunkenness on occasions of *reporting* for duty or for orders see DIGEST, 16.

4. In the Joint Resolution of April 12, 1866, the term "*in the line of duty*" is expressly defined as meaning—"while actually in service under military orders, not at the time on furlough or leave of absence, nor engaged in any unlawful or unauthorized act or pursuit."

5. See cases in G. O. 5 of 1857; G. C. M. O. 10 of 1879; Do. 53 of 1882; Do. 21, Dept. of the Mo., 1870. And compare G. C. M. O. 9 of 1875.

6. DIGEST, 17. And see remarks of Secretary of War in G. O. 64 of 1851.

ed upon for the performance of duties pertaining to his office.¹ *officer of the day* is thus liable if found drunk at any moment of his tour of duty whether in the day time or at night.²

gain, in time of war, and especially in the field before the enemy, the status of being *on duty*, in the sense of this Article, must be uninterrupted for very considerable periods. As required by the reviewing authority, in approving a conviction of an officer under the Article early in the late war,³—"an officer, when his regiment is in front of the enemy, is at all times *on duty*." In a more recent Order of the War Department,⁴ in the case of an officer found drunk while on duty in command of a company "on an expedition against hostile Indians," it was held by the Secretary of War that—"the nature of the service and the gravity of the command certainly constitute this a duty in the sense of the Article."

Term of duty. The status of being on duty continues of course till the duty is executed or the party is discharged or relieved therefrom. A question, however, as to when the status actually commences has sometimes been raised in cases of soldiers ordered to go on guard, or to turn out for parade, drill, &c., and who are "found drunk" while being inspected or formed in the ranks before entering upon the specific duty designated. In these cases it has, in some instances, been held that as the soldier, when found, has not yet gone upon the guard, &c., he has not commenced to be "on duty" in the sense of the Article.⁵ But the

See the recent case published in G. C. M. O. 49 of 1883.

"It is not necessary," to bring his case within the Article, "that an officer of the day should be drunk at inspection of the guard, or at performance of any particular act as officer of the day. He is liable, and drunk between going on and going off guard." G. O. 54, Dept. of the South, 1875. (Gen. McDowell.) And see Do. 7, War Dept., 1856; 5, Id., 1857. So a member of a camp or post guard is *on duty* not only while on post as sentinel, but during the entire day or period for which he has been detailed for guard. See above cited G. O. of Dept. of the South.

G. O. 57, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1863. And see Do. 1, 48, Id., 1865; G. C. M. O. 5, Id., 1865.

G. C. M. O. 9 of 1875.

See G. O. 27, 32, Dept. of the South, 1873; G. C. M. O. 2, Div. of the Pacific & Dept. of Cal., 1881.

opposite—as held in other instances¹—is deemed the better view, for although the soldier, in such cases, has not entered upon the duty for which he is finally destined, he is upon the duty preliminary to that, and which is as much a duty as that is, of reporting and being inspected.

What is military duty. The term “duty,” as used in this Article, means of course military duty. But—it is important to note—every duty which an officer is legally required, by superior military authority, to execute, and for the proper execution of which he is answerable to such authority, is necessarily a military duty, and this, although it be a duty which a civilian could with equal fitness be employed to perform. Thus an officer or soldier engaged in engineering operations, not connected with military works, under the orders of the Chief of Engineers of the army, or one duly serving upon a *posse comitatus* in aid of a civil official, or acting as an Indian agent under Sec. 2062, Rev. Stat., would, if disqualifying himself by intoxication for the proper performance of the service devolved upon him, be amenable to charges under the present Article.*

Proof. The simplest and most satisfactory evidence of the fact of drunkenness will be the statements of witnesses as to the appearance, condition, manner, language or acts of the accused, or other attendant circumstances from which a state of intoxication may be presumed. But as drunkenness is to a great extent a matter of common observation, it is held not to be an infringement of the rule of evidence—that a witness, (not an expert,) shall not be asked or allowed to give his *opinion*—for witnesses, when interrogated as to the condition of the accused, state, as a fact, that he “*was drunk*.”³ Further, *military* vi

1. G. O. 11, Dept. of La., 1869; G. C. M. O. 12, Dept. of Texas, 1880. And see Do. 113, Dept. of the Mo., 1873.

2. In the recent and leading case of *Runkle v. U. S.*, 19 Ct. Cl. 44, the court well say: “Whatever service a military officer is lawfully ordered by his superior officer to perform is, in the eye of the law, a military service, though when performed by a private citizen, under the employment of others, it would be a purely civil service. It is the military character of the officer, acting under lawful military orders, which makes the duty a military one, whatever may be the particular description of work involved in the performance of that duty.”

3. DIGEST, 255. And see Chapter XVIII—“Statement of opinion and belief.”

es, when of the proper rank and experience to enable them testify as *quasi* experts, may be asked their opinion as to whether the accused was or not capable, under the circumstances of the case, of properly executing the duty indicated in the specification.

Defence. The accused may show that the spirits or drug had been taken by him as a medicine only, and that because of the strength of the dose, a weak head, depreciated health, the heat of weather, fatigue, or other cause, it had over-affected him. He should also prove that the same had been prescribed by a medical officer or physician, since an officer or soldier is not authorized to risk incapacitating himself for duty by taking medicine at discretion.

Finding. Where the evidence shows that the accused was drunk but not on duty, the court may and properly should find him guilty of the specification, *except* as to the averment in regard to duty, and not guilty of the charge but guilty of "conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline." This is one of the cases in which such form of finding is especially useful and appropriate.

XVI. THIRTY-NINTH ARTICLE.

[OFFENCES OF SENTINELS.]

ART 39.—*Any sentinel who is found sleeping upon his post, or leaves it before he is regularly relieved, shall suffer death, or other punishment as a court-martial may direct.*"

Object of the Article. The purpose of this provision, (which may be traced to Art. 32 of the Code of James II, as derived from 50 of Gustavus Adolphus,) is to secure on the part of sentinels that alert watchfulness and steadfastness which are the very life of their service. These qualities, important as they are to the protection from depredation or loss by fire of the public property collected at a military station, are, in *time of war*, absolutely essential to ensure a camp or post against the danger of surprise and capture by a hostile force. **Grave** are the consequences the offences specified in the Article invite. The enemy that they become of the

acter, and it is especially to prevent their occurrence at such critical seasons that they are made punishable with *death*.¹

Sleeping on Post—Proof. As to the proof of this offence it should first be shown by the officer or non-commissioned officer whose duty it was to detail and to post the sentinel, that he was duly detailed and duly posted as charged. That he was found asleep should most properly be proved by the testimony of the officer of the day, or officer or non-commissioned officer of the guard, (or by some member or members of the guard or patrol then present,) by whom he was discovered in that condition. That he was actually asleep may be shown by some such facts or facts as the following, *viz.*—that accused, (if the offence occurred as it usually does, in the night,) failed to challenge the officer or party approaching his post; that he was found lying down, or in a position favorable to sleep, instead of standing or walking his beat; that he was snoring or breathing as if in sleep; that he did not answer when spoken to, once or repeatedly; that he did not apparently become conscious till touched, shaken, &c.; that when roused he was stupid; that he had dropped or laid aside his musket, or that he allowed it to be taken from him without resistance, &c.

Leaving his Post before being Regularly Relieved—Proof. After showing the due detail and posting of the accused, this offence is usually established by evidence that, when the post was officially visited during a tour of duty of the accused, he was not found upon it, and that he had not been for any cause relieved by any officer or non-commissioned officer of the guard or other competent authority. Or it may be shown that he was, under similar circumstances, discovered to be at a place—

1. "There is nothing upon which the safety of an army or command so much depends as the faithfulness and vigilance of sentinels." G. O. 67, Dept. of Washington, 1866. (Gen. Canby.) "The duty of a sentinel is of such a nature that its neglect by sleeping upon or deserting his post, may endanger the safety of a command or even of a whole army, and all nations affix to the offence the penalty of death." G. O. 8, Army of the Potomac, 1861. (Gen. McClellan.) And see G. O. 18 and 24 of the same command and year; also Samuel, 556-559. The last named authority refers to another purpose of sentinels, that they "are required to watch that others may sleep, whereby the camp may be seasonably refreshed."

arters for example—quite other than his post, or was seen off his post and at a material distance from it.

“Regularly relieved.” The Army Regulations,¹ (expressing custom of the service,²) prescribe that a sentinel’s tour of duty, between reliefs, shall, as a general rule, be two hours; and they further direct as to the mode in which a sentinel shall be relieved the end of a tour.³ In case, however, of illness or other urgency, during pending a tour, a sentinel may be relieved temporarily altogether, upon application transmitted in the usual manner the officer of the guard. A sentinel, however, cannot relieve himself,⁴ nor can he “regularly” be relieved by another sentinel except in the presence and under the supervision and direction of an officer or non-commissioned officer of the guard. Referring, in a case of the offence under consideration, to the mere relieving of sentinels by each other, Gen. Ordwell says—“This method of conducting guard duty is in direct violation of the Regulations, and sentinels allowing themselves to be thus relieved are liable to trial for a violation of the 39th Article.”⁵

Defence and Extenuation. It has been held no *defence* to a charge of “sleeping on post” that the accused was on guard the day previous;⁶ or that an imperfect discipline had prevailed at the command and similar offences had been allowed to pass without notice;⁷ or that the accused was not duly posted as a sentinel.⁸ So, to a charge of “leaving post before being regularly relieved,” it has been held no defence that it was a custom of the command for sentinels to relieve themselves, and that the accused had but followed this custom.⁹

1. Par. 365.

2. See Hough, 303; *Id.*, (P.) 180.

3. Par. 367.

4. See G. C. M. O. 80, Dept. of the Mo., 1875.

5. G. C. M. O. 38, Dept. of Texas, 1875. And see O’Brien, 138; O. 166, Dept. of the South, 1864; G. C. M. O. 80, Dept. of the Mo., 5.

6. G. O. 74, Army of the Potomac, 1862.

7. See Order cited in note 6.

8. For “he had lawfully assumed all the responsibilities of a sentinel, and should have been punished for his fault” accordingly. (Gen. Hancock.) And see G. O. 166, Dept. of the South, 1864; *DIGEST*, 18.

9. For such a custom is “clearly contrary to law.” G. C. M. O. 80, Dept. of the Mo., 1875.

Circumstances, however, which could not constitute a *legitimate defence*, may be admissible as evidence going to *extenuate* the offence committed and reduce the measure of the punishment to induce a mitigation of the punishment, after sentence, by the reviewing authority. Thus it may be shown that the accused when posted as a sentinel, was ill or otherwise disabled;¹ or that he had already been overtaken by excessive guard duty or continuous service;² or that he had temporarily left his post under an extraordinary stress of weather;³ or that, in irregularly relieving himself or allowing himself to be relieved, he had observed a usage sanctioned by his official superiors; or that, being a recruit, he had not been properly instructed in his duties as a sentinel.⁴

Punishment. The infliction of the death penalty for the offences specified in Art. 39 is as old as the history of armies. In our practice, the extreme punishment is most rarely, if ever resorted to except in time of war.⁶ During the late war of the rebellion it was adjudged not unfrequently for the offence of sleeping on post.⁷

1. See G. C. M. O. 136 of 1864; G. O. 72, Dept. of Cal., 1872; 14, Id., 1871; Do. 21, Id., 1869; Do. 20, Dept. of N. Mex., 1862; 20, Dept. of Texas, 1866.

2. See G. O. 10, 62, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1863; Do. 2, North Dept., 1865; Do. 67, Dept. of Washington, 1866; G. C. M. O. 44, Id. of Texas, 1875.

3. Par. 365 of the Army Regulations specially authorizes the relief of sentinels whenever "the state of the weather or other causes make it necessary or proper."

4. See G. O. 74, Army of the Potomac, 1862. In cases where the offence of the accused has been in part induced through the neglect or oppressive treatment of a superior, the latter has been not unfrequently pronounced more culpable and deserving of punishment than the offender. See G. O. 15, Army of the Potomac, 1861; Do. 10, 62, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1863; Do. 21, Dept. of Cal., 1869; G. C. M. O. 14, Dept. of Texas, 1872; Do. 80, Dept. of the Mo., 1875; DIGEST, 19.

5. "It is said that Epaminondas, in making the circuit of his camp, slew a sentinel whom he found sleeping, using this memorable saying, 'that he did him no harm, leaving him only as he found him.'" See *Suetonius*, 557.

6. See G. O. 20, Dept. of N. Mex., 1862.

7. To refer only to cases published in the *Orders of the War Department*—see G. O. 125, 127, 185, 189, 197, 225, 234, 260, 264 and 265; G. C. M. O. 31, 38, 75, 81, 113, 151, 235 and 402, of 1864.

I. THE FORTY-FIRST AND FORTY-FOURTH ARTICLES.

SING FALSE ALARMS: DISCLOSING THE WATCHWORD.]

ART. 41. *Any officer who, by any means whatsoever, occasions alarms in camp, garrison, or quarters, shall suffer death, or other punishment as a court-martial may direct.*

ART. 44. *Any person belonging to the armies of the United States who makes known the watchword to any person not entitled to give it, according to the rules and discipline of war, or pretends to give a parole or watchword different from that which he has received, shall suffer death, or such other punishment as a court-martial may direct."*

§. 41 to 46. Of this series of Articles—which refer to a class of capital offences pertaining mostly to time of war—those are considered together which may be most conveniently arranged.

FORTY-FIRST ARTICLE.

Object. Samuel,* in commenting upon the corresponding British Article,[†] writes:—"The mischiefs it seeks to prevent, first, the disturbance of the quiet of the camp or quarters, whereby the troops might be deprived of that seasonable repose and sleep, which nature and the fatigues of war require as a requisite; and secondly the harassing and vexing of the troops by unfounded alarms, by experience of the falsity of which, in former instances they might chance to be deceived. A true "signal of alarm might be given, or be less able to be exposed to exert themselves * * * when their prompt and immediate services should be demanded."

the sentence was either commuted or remitted by President Jackson.

* O. 17, Dept. of the Mo., 1861, is approved a peculiar sentence of capital offence, *viz.*—to forfeit certain pay, to stand on a barrel for a period in the centre of the camp, and to "have a sign hung on the barrel inscribed 'Sleepy Head.'"

page 575.

See its originals in Arts. 14 and 15 of Sec. 11.

Arts. II, and Art. 48 of Gustavus Adolphus's Code, and note to same, in Appendix.

The Nature of the Offence. For an illustration of the "false alarms" recurrence may be had to the form of the clause in the code of 1806, where the language, repeated from British original, is—"Any officer, who, by discharging of arms, drawing of swords, beating of drums, or by any means whatsoever, shall occasion false alarms," &c. A British Article¹ added, (after "beating drums,")—"making signals, using words, or by any means whatever." Among "*means*," says Hough,² "may be enumerated the sounding of trumpets, bugles, or other wind instruments." Samuel³ observes "by '*other means*' may be intended such noise, or cry, or signal, or report, as might be raised or made for the purpose of causing or be calculated to cause, an unfounded alarm."

That the alarm was a *false* one will be established by evidence to the effect that there existed at the time no material cause on occasion which could reasonably induce a general alarm.⁴ If before the enemy, in the absence of any warning from the picket line or outposts, it would in general constitute an offence under Article for an officer, within the camp or post, to order the roll to be beaten or otherwise raise the alarm, except on account of some serious internal cause, as a dangerous fire.

Where indeed there may exist reasonable ground for an alarm it will not be an offence but the reverse to arouse and notify command by the most effectual means.⁵

The intent. The offence as defined in the later British Article⁶ was that of "*intentionally*" occasioning false alarms. Such qualification is contained in our Article, and if only a false alarm be false, that is to say without reasonable foundation, the offence will be complete whatever may have been the intention. That the officer honestly believed that sufficient cause existed for an alarm raised by him when the opposite was the fact, which is not affecting the question of his legal liability to a conviction may properly be shown in evidence as going to extenuate the offence and reduce the measure of the punishment.

1. Art. 55, (and also Art. 71,) of 1873. Clode, M. L., 269, 272.

2. Page 320; also, Id., (P.) 177.

3. Page 576.

4. See Hough, 321.

5. See Samuel, 575.

6. Art. 55 of 1873.

Application in practice. "From the nature of the Article," observes O'Brien,¹ "it will most generally find its application in a season of war, though its letter does not in any way include times of tranquillity." Occasions of conviction under it have been rare in our army even in war. In an Order of 1863² was published a case of a lieutenant convicted of a violation of this Article in discharging his revolver "several times unnecessarily," as an officer of the advance guard, "thereby causing the garrison to stand under arms." In a more recent Order of the War Department,³ is the case of an officer convicted of causing a cannon to be discharged in the garrison, thereby creating an unnecessary alarm.

FORTY-FOURTH ARTICLE.

Origin. The original of this provision may be found in Art. 1 of the Code of James II, and Art. 26 of our first Articles of

Watchword and Parole Distinguished. The British commentators⁴ distinguish the *watchword* as the 'key of the port or garrison at night' and the *parole* as 'the passport for day.' Our Army Regulations⁵ define these terms as follows:—"The countersign or watchword is given to such persons who are entitled to pass during the night, and to officers, non-commissioned officers and sentinels of the guard. * * * The parole is imparted to such officers only as have a right to visit the guards and to make the grand rounds, and to officers commanding guards."⁶

Two Offences Considered—1. Making known the watchword to persons not entitled to receive it. The

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G. O. 76, Dept. of the Gulf.

G. C. M. O. 18 of 1876. This act, however, (committed under the influence of liquor and in time of peace,) is charged under Art. 62.

Samuel, 571, 573; Hough, 316.

Pars. 350, 351.

And see also par. 1073. Beside the regular watchword or parole, a special one is "sometimes given preparatory to an action," (O'Brien; or to the members or officers of a force detailed to execute a military movement, especially at night.

Article, (which is applicable not merely to time of war, but also to time of peace' upon those rare occasions when a countersign is employed,) includes, in the first of the offences designated, all impartings, secretly or openly, of the watchword to improper persons, whatever be the motive—whether, for example, the giving of aid to the enemy, or the facilitating of the admission into the camp or post of unauthorized persons not enemies, or the exit of deserters, prisoners, or other parties absenting themselves without authority.² It would include also cases of the offence committed without specific motive, but through negligence merely or want of appreciation of the purpose or significance of the watchword.³

What persons are "*not entitled to receive*" the watchword is best ascertained by considering who *are* or *may be* entitled to it. The Article itself indeed indicates in general terms to whom it may be communicated, *i. e.* to those "entitled to receive it *according to the rules and discipline of war.*" Such persons are—*First*: the officer of the day, and the officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers of the camp or post guard, provost guard, picket-guard and outposts;⁴ *Second*: such officers or soldiers not on guard, members of the families of officers or soldiers, officers' servants, civil employees, or camp-followers, as may be authorized by the commanding officer to pass the lines for any purpose;⁵ as well as any

1. See O'Brien, 140.

2. See case in G. O. 242 of 1863.

3. In a case of an officer convicted of improperly making known the parole, Gen. Rosecrans observes as follows:—"His excuse, that he did not know the object and purposes of the parole, and had not noticed what the Regulations contained on that subject, only aggravates his offence by adding to it inexcusable ignorance. After receiving the parole and not knowing its use, he should have sought information before putting it to any use." G. O. 24, Army of Occupation, W. Va., 1861.

4. In nearly all the reported cases the accused was an officer or soldier of this class. See G. O., Army of Occupation, W. Va., 1861; Do. 18, Army of the Potomac, 1862; Do. 45, Dept. of the South, 1862; Do. 28, Id., 1864; Do. 47, Dept. of Washington, 1863; Do. 58, Dept. of the Mo., 1864; S. Field O., Dept. & Army of the Tenn., Jan. 11, 1864.

5. See Samuel, 573-4, where, besides the proper officers and soldiers, he mentions, as persons to whom the watchword may be imparted, "such others as have the common or special privilege" of the garrison, &c.—"as licensed inhabitants, sutlers, camp-followers and the like. But," he adds, "the countersign is not made known, as of course, to the latter description of persons, but on the sound discretion of the officer in command." And see O'Brien, 140.

other persons military or civil, not connected with the command, who, as visitors or for purposes of business,¹ may be permitted by the same authority to enter the post or depart from it without detriment to its security or prejudice to the interests of the service. In brief the persons intended by the Article are those whom the law and custom of the service recognize as proper persons to be furnished with the countersign, and whom the rules of military discipline do not at the time preclude from being entrusted with it—a class liable to be restricted, at a period of war or other emergency, to a very limited number.

In charging an offence under the Article, it need not be alleged, nor need it be shown by the evidence, *who* the particular persons were: provided they were persons “not entitled” to receive the watchword, it is immaterial whether or not they were personally known either to the prosecution or the accused.²

It is no defence that the accused *did not know* that the party to whom he communicated the watchword was a person to whom it was not authorized to be imparted. The Article makes the act punishable without regard to the knowledge of the accused on this subject. The fact, however, that he honestly believed that he was giving the word to a proper person would be admissible in evidence in mitigation of punishment.

2. Giving a parole or watchword different from that received. It is observed of this offence by Samuel,³ that, “though it could afford no information to an enemy, it might induce the most mischievous and ruinous confusion in the intended operations” of an army.

The term “that which he received” will include of course a second or new parole or watchword where such has been *substituted* for one previously given out for the same night or occasion. The issue of a new countersign, to replace one which has been lost or communicated to the enemy, is provided for by par. 1075 of the Army Regulations.⁴

1. See Duane's Mil. Dict.—“Countersign.”

2. See the allegations in the specifications in cases published in G. O. 242 of 1863; S. Field O., Dept. & Army of the Tenn., Jan. 11, 1864.

3. Page 573.

4. As to the practice of changing the countersign when it is suspected that it has become known to the enemy or “improper persons”—see Samuel, 572; Hough, 317.

It would constitute an extenuating circumstance, though not a defence, that the accused, because of being a foreigner or for other good reason, had not understood the word when given out and so repeated it incorrectly.¹ Hough² observes, of the watchword or parole, that it "should be some short word which is familiar to all and easily to be pronounced."³ According to the Army Regulations of 1863, (§ 558,) "the parole is usually the name of a general, the countersign that of a battle."

XVIII. THE FORTY-SECOND AND FORTY-THIRD ARTICLES.

[MISBEHAVIOUR BEFORE THE ENEMY AND LIKE OFFENCES]

"ART. 42. *Any officer or soldier who misbehaves himself before the enemy, runs away, or shamefully abandons any fort, post, or guard, which he is commanded to defend, or speaks words inducing others to do the like, or casts away his arms or ammunition, or quits his post or colors to plunder or pillage, shall suffer death, or such other punishment as a court-martial may direct.*

"ART. 43. *If any commander of any garrison, fortress, or post is compelled, by the officers and soldiers under his command, to give up to the enemy or to abandon it, the officers or soldiers so offending shall suffer death, or such other punishment as a court-martial may direct.*"

FORTY-SECOND ARTICLE.

Originals. The originals of this and the next Article may be traced in Arts. 9 and 13 of Sec. III of Charles I, Arts. 22, 23 and 24 of James II, and in various provisions of the Code of Gustavus Adolphus, especially in the Arts. numbered 55, 56, 62, 64, 73, 79, 89, 92, 93 and 94. The offence of pillaging is denounced in the still earlier Art. 7 of Richard II.

As Compared with Provisions of earlier American codes. The present Article is Art. 52 of the Code of 1806 expressed in improved English. The existing form is more general

1. See Samuel, 572; Hough, 316.

2. Page 316; Id., (P.) 175.

3. "It (the countersign) ought always to be given in the language most known to the troops." Duane, Mil. Dict.—"Countersign."

than that of 1775,¹ which provided for the punishment of the offences described only when committed "in time of an engagement;" and, as respects the offence of 'leaving post, &c., to plunder and pillage,' is also more general than the form of 1776,² which made this act punishable only "after victory." Other details in which the present Article differs from its predecessors will be noticed hereafter.

Misbehaviour Before the Enemy. This offence may consist in:—

1. Such acts by a *commanding officer*, as—needlessly surrendering his command,³ or abandoning it before the enemy;⁴ abandoning, or absenting himself from, his post when expecting an attack;⁵ refusing or failing to advance against, attack, or resist, the enemy, when ordered or properly called upon to do so;⁶ retreating, or withdrawing his command, before the enemy, without sufficient cause;⁷ conducting a retreat in a disorderly manner and

1. See Arts. 25 and 30; also Nos. 10 and 12 of the "Additional" Articles of November of that year.

2. Arts. 12, 13 and 14, of Sec. XIII.

3. See case in G. O. 87, Dept. of the Ohio, 1864. The leading case in our military history of an officer tried under this Article for a *surrender* is that of Brig. Gen. Wm. Hull, who was convicted of "cowardice" in surrendering Fort Detroit and the "northwestern army" under his command to the British, in 1813, and sentenced to death. The court, however, "in consideration of his revolutionary services and his advanced age, earnestly" recommended him to clemency, and his sentence was approved, but remitted by President Madison.

4. See G. C. M. O. 114 of 1864; G. O. 22, Mountain Dept., 1862; Do. 31, Dept. of the Tenn., 1863; Do. 37, Middle Dept., 1864; Do. 57, Dept. of the Gulf, 1864; Do. 7, Dept. of W. Va., 1864. An earlier leading case is that of Capt. Dyson, U. S. Artillery, tried and sentenced to be dismissed for running away and abandoning his post of Fort Washington, at the time of the capture of Washington, D. C., by the British. G. O. Tenth Mil. Dist., Nov. 17, 1814; American State Papers, Military Affairs, vol. I, p. 588.

5. G. O. 144, Army of the Miss., 1862; Do. 174, Dept. of the Mo., 1864.

6. See G. O. 18 of 1863; G. C. M. O. 33 of 1880; G. O. 7, Dept. of W. Va., 1864; S. Field O., Dept. of the Tenn., Jan. 11, 1864; Do. 71, Dept. of Washington, 1865.

7. See G. O. 189, 282, of 1863; G. C. M. O. 33 of 1880; G. O. 144, Army of the Miss., 1862; Do. 73, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1864. In G. O. 229 of 1863, an officer was convicted of allowing his command to retreat in disorder before a body of U. S. troops, supposed to be the enemy.

without the proper precautions;¹ failing to rally his force when in disorder but capable of being rallied;² procuring himself unnecessarily to be relieved from the command when about to be engaged;³ failing to succor, support, or relieve, another command, when ordered, or when circumstances make it a duty;⁴ neglecting or refusing, when directed by a competent superior, or required by the nature of the duty devolved, to execute a movement or perform a service adverse, or with relation to, the enemy when in his front or neighborhood.⁵

2. Such acts by *any officer or soldier*, as—refusing or failing to advance with the command when ordered forward to meet the enemy;⁶ going to the rear or leaving the command when engaged with the enemy, or expecting to be engaged, or when under fire;⁷ hiding or seeking shelter when properly required to be exposed to fire;⁸ feigning sickness, or wounds, in order to evade taking part in a present or impending engagement or other active service against the enemy;⁹ refusing to do duty or to perform some particular service when before the enemy.¹⁰

Misbehaviour not necessarily cowardice. Misbehaviour before the enemy is often charged as "Cowardice;" but cowardice

1. Hough, 341. And see G. O. 144, Army of the Miss., 1862. The "misbehaviour before the enemy," of which Maj. Gen. Chas. Lee was convicted, (1778,) was his making an unnecessary and in some respects disorderly retreat, at the battle of Monmouth.

2. See G. O. 57, Dept. of the Gulf, 1864; Do. 73, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1864; Do. 7, Dept. of W. Va., 1864.

3. G. O. 58, Dept. of the Tenn., 1863.

4. See G. O. 18, 189, of 1863; Hough, 341.

5. See G. O. 18 of 1863.

6. See G. O. 204 of 1863; G. C. M. O. 90 of 1864; Do. 421 of 1865.

7. See G. O. 146, 189, 204, of 1863; Do. 27 of 1864; G. C. M. O. 53, 134, 191, of 1865; G. O. 130, Army of the Potomac, 1862; Do. 22, Mountain Dept., 1862; Do. 21, Dept. of the Tenn., 1863; Do. 57, Dept. of the Gulf, 1864; Do. 37, Middle Dept., 1864; Do. 10, Middle Mil. Div., 1864; Do. 7, Dept. of W. Va., 1864; Do. 73, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1864.

8. G. C. M. O. 114 of 1864; G. O. 22, Mountain Dept., 1862; Do. 21, Dept. of the Tenn., 1863; Do. 10, Middle Mil. Div., 1864.

9. See Samuel, 600; G. C. M. O. 90 of 1864; G. O. 21, Dept. of the Tenn., 1863; also G. O. 37, Middle Dept., 1864, where the allegation, of which the accused was convicted, is—that he "did chew tobacco, and used other means to make himself sick, in a cowardly manner, that he might have an excuse for avoiding the coming engagement with the enemy."

10. See G. C. M. O. 90 of 1864; Do. 53 of 1865.

imply one form of the offence, which, though not unfrequently result of pusillanimity or fear, may also be induced by a treacherable, disloyal, or insubordinate spirit, or may be the result of negligence or inefficiency.¹ An officer or soldier who culpably fails to do his whole duty before the enemy will be equally chargeable with the offence as if he had deliberately proved recreant.

Where the offence may be committed. The offence may be committed in a *fort* or other military post as well as in the open field,—as where an officer or soldier fails or neglects properly to defend or guard the post or its approaches, when threatened, attacked, or besieged by the enemy.²

The act of misbehaviour must be voluntary. The acts, in the doing, not doing, or allowing of which consists the offence, must be conscious and voluntary on the part of the offender. The mere circumstance that he is found in a condition of intoxication, when called upon to march or operate against the enemy, will not constitute the offence,³ unless such condition would have been induced for the express purpose of evading such duty.

“Before the enemy.” This term is defined by Samuel as—“in the face or presence of the enemy.” It is not necessary, however, that the enemy should be in sight. If he is confronting the army or in its neighborhood, though separated from it by considerable distance, and the service upon which the party is engaged, or which he is specially ordered or properly required by his military obligation to perform, be one directed against the enemy, or resorted to in view of his movements, the misbehaviour committed will be “before the enemy” in the sense of the article.

The “enemy” may be hostile Indians, and the offence be committed in the course of warfare with Indians equally as in a foreign or a civil war.⁴

1. See DIGEST, 19. Admiral Byng, while convicted of recreancy to duty before the enemy, was at the same time expressly acquitted of cowardice.

2. See Samuel, 596; also G. O. 144, Army of the Miss., 1862.

3. Samuel, 597–8.

4. DIGEST, 19. In a case in G. O. 5 of 1857, the accused, a soldier,

Defence. Beside negating the facts charged, the accused may show in defence that in what he did he was acting under the orders or authority of a competent superior, or was properly exercising the discretion which his rank, command, or duty, or the peculiar circumstances of the case, entitled him to use. He may also show that he was suffering under a genuine and extreme illness or other disability at the time of the alleged misbehaviour. Brave or efficient conduct in action or before the enemy, subsequently to the offence, (where the accused, after the commencement of the prosecution—by arrest or service of charges—has been permitted to do duty,) while it may be put in evidence in mitigation of the punishment, and should in general mitigate it very considerably, will not, strictly, constitute a defence.¹ Nor will it constitute a defence, or scarcely an extenuation, that the accused did finally perform the service required of him or otherwise duly conduct himself before the enemy, if, after having originally misbehaved, he was compelled to such service or conduct by peremptory orders or by the use or display of force.²

Running Away. This is merely a form of misbehaviour before the enemy, and the words “runs away” might well be omitted from the Article as surplusage. Barker, an old writer cited by Samuel,³ says of this offence :—“ But here it is to be noticed that of *fleeing* there be two sorts; the one proceeding of a sudden and unlooked-for terror, which is least blameable; the other is voluntary, and, as it were, a determinate intention to give place unto the enemy—a fault exceeding foule and not excusable.”

Shamefully Abandoning a Fort, Post, &c. Of this specific form of misbehaviour before the enemy, it is to be said that whether or not the abandoning is to be regarded as “*shameful*”

was sentenced to be *hung*, on conviction of this offence, committed in an engagement with Indians. In later cases of this offence, in G. C. M. O. 36 of 1879; Do. 33 of 1880, committed by officers commanding troops during hostilities against Indians, the accused were sentenced to be dismissed.

1. See De Hart, 144; Ives, 100; DIGEST, 358.

2. In G. C. M. O. 53 of 1865, a specification, (of which a soldier was convicted,) charges that having left his company while engaged in battle, he “had to be threatened to be shot in order to make him rejoin it.” And see G. O. 5 of 1857.

3. Page 601.

pend upon the circumstances of the situation. Generally
 ng, a commander is justified in surrendering or abandoning
 st to the enemy only at the last extremity,—as where his
 nition or provisions are expended, or so many of his com-
 have been put *hors du combat* that he can no longer sustain
 ctual defence, and, no prospect of relief or succor remain-
 appears quite certain that he must in any event presently
 1b. But, as a general rule, every available means of hold-
 e post and repulsing the enemy must have been tried and
 ailed before a surrender or abandonment can be warranted,
 ' the same be resorted to on any less pretext, the com-
 r will be chargeable with the offence indicated by the Ar-

In time of war nothing indeed so fatally compromises the
 interests, and nothing is so inevitably made the subject of
 gation and trial,² as the premature or unnecessary yielding
 he enemy of a fortified post; and when the periods of siege
 have in many cases been withstood are recalled, it will be
 iated how possible it may be found to protract a defence
 circumstances of extreme privation and difficulty.³

"*shameful*" quality of an abandonment may be illustrated
 commander's unnecessarily leaving, to fall into the hands
 enemy instead of at least destroying them, valuable public
 under his charge at the post.⁴

term "*post*," it has been said,⁵ "has reference to some
 or position, whether fortified or not, which a detachment
 e ordered to occupy, or which it may be its duty to defend."
 erm "*guard*" is general, but would appear to contemplate
 ance guard, or other outer or special guard, rather than
 dinary interior guard of a camp or station. The abandon-
 of a picket post or line, without using every reasonable en-
 : to hold it and to retard as long as practicable the advance

ee Samuel, 601-607; Simmons § 196; also the case of "the aban-
 nt of Maryland Heights and the surrender of Harper's Ferry,"
 ch the result is published in G. O. 183 of 1862.

ee the Resolution of Nov. 28, 1777, (2 Jour. Cong., 354,) which
 es that it shall be "an established rule in Congress" to institute
 stigation in the case of every fort or post abandoned, or taken
 enemy.

i the late instance of Belfort, (1870-1,) the defence was continued
 e months; at Sebastopol, eleven months.

ee the case published in G. O. 144, Army of the Miss., 1862.

mmons § 199.

of the enemy, thus enabling the main body to prepare for his approach, would be a marked instance of the offence of doing a "*post or guard*" specified in the article.

"Which he is Commanded to Defend." This term is regarded as substantially synonymous with that employed in the original Article of 1775—"committed to his charge," or the phrase of the corresponding British Article—"committed to his charge or which it was his duty to defend." It is contended that, to constitute the offence, no express or specific instruction to defend the post need have been given, but that it is sufficient if an obligation to make a defence was—as it could hardly be—devolved upon the commander as a necessary or reasonable implication from the order which assigned him to the command or as a duty properly attaching to his position.

Speaking words inducing others to do the like. Considering together our original Articles of 1775 and in connection with the earlier British form and the comment on of Samuel¹ and Hough,² the conclusion is reached that the words are most properly to be construed as referring not to the act of abandoning a post, &c., the designation of which immediately precedes such words in the Article, but also equally to the general offence of misbehaving before the first therein mentioned and to the specific offence of running away; in other words that "*the like*" refers to any one or more of the acts previously mentioned in the Article.

By "words," as here used, may be regarded as included all verbal argument, persuasion or threat, language of discouragement, alarm, or false or incorrect statement in regard to the conduct or operations of the troops or the movements of the enemy, whether or not intended to have such effect,³ may avail to induce about an unnecessary surrender, retreat, or other derelict conduct before the enemy. As where a subordinate officer falsely reports to his superior, commanding a picket line, that the right line was giving way, and thus induced or contributed to the latter to fall back with his entire command.⁴

1. Pages 607-9. And see O'Brien, 145.

2. Pages 359-362.

3. See Samuel, 608-9.

4. G. O. 73, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1864.

is held by Samuel¹ that the offence is equally committed whether the *words* indicated "be used toward the commanding officer," or toward "the officers or troops under his command." The same writer,² in holding that the *words* must be "unwarlike or unauthorized," notices the point that words spoken—such as, for instance, of a surrender—in a *council of war*, commanded by the commander, will not render an officer amenable to discipline under the Article.

Casting away Arms or Ammunition. This offence, which, from an early period of history, has been viewed as a most serious one especially in time of war,³ is, under the present Article, completed by the act itself of "casting away," whatever its inducement—whether it be to aid flight or relieve weariness, or a mereanton renunciation."⁴ The term "*his arms or ammunition*," the item "*his horse, arms, clothing, or accouterments*," embodied in Art. 17, includes not only such arms, &c., if any, as may be personal property, but also such as have been furnished to the government to the soldier for his equipment and use in service;⁵ the latter being those mainly or almost exclusively contemplated, since it is only in rare cases among militia or volunteer troops that the soldier will own his arm, &c. Where—as is the general rule—the arm or ammunition discarded belongs not to the offender himself but to the United States, the offence is aggravated; and, in time of war, it is also aggravated by the further fact that the arm, &c., is likely to fall into the hands of the enemy.

That the arm or quantity of ammunition which the party is charged of having cast away, was thrown aside at the order of a commander, in requiring his command to lighten themselves of *baggage*, in order to facilitate a more rapid retreat when pursued by the enemy, or for other military purpose, will of course constitute a defence to the charge.⁶

Page 611. And see Hough, 362.

Page 609. And see O'Brien, 145.

See Samuel, 588-591.

Samuel, 592; O'Brien, 146.

Hough, 336; Samuel, 592; DIGEST, 19.

See Samuel, 592.

Quitting Post or Colors to Plunder or Pillage offence which, if permitted to be indulged in by troop convert legitimate warfare into mere marauding and a military force into a band of stragglers and freebooters, those which are regarded as the most immediately fatal discipline and *morale* of soldiers, and as calling in all severe punishment.¹ It has been stigmatized as a grave crime in all the codes of Articles from a very early period. General Orders, published during the late war, abound in declarations of commanders, denouncing and prohibiting lawless foraging,² and holding officers responsible for the conduct of their commands in this particular.³ Repeated distinction pointed out between the authorized taking of or levying of contributions for the public use, in accordance with law or the custom of war, and the unauthorized and ilpropriation of private property by officers, soldiers, or followers.⁴

The term "*post*" is evidently used here in the most sense, but as referring to a point for the time fixed. "(

1. Samuel, 585-6; Army Regulations, § 1094.

2. See the early British Articles referred to at the commencement of the consideration of this Article.

3. G. O. 19, Army of the Potomac, 1861; Do. 40, Id., 1862; Dept. of N. E. Va., 1861; Do. 3, 21, Army of Occupation, 1861; Do. 19, 30, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1862; Do. 5, Dept. of Susquehanna, 1863; Do. 15, Dept. of the Gulf, 1862; Do. 23, 1863; Do. 26, 47, Dept. of the Ohio, 1864; Field Circ. 2, Dept. of the Tenn., 1864; Do. 10, Army of the Tenn., 1865. In G. Banks' Division, 1862, the Comdg. Gen. calls upon officers "to remember the declaration of the great master of the art of war, that pillage is the most certain method of disorganizing and destroying an army."

4. G. O. 3, 21, Army of Occupation, W. Va., 1861; Do. 30, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1862; Do. 15, Dept. of the Gulf, 1862; Do. 1863. "An officer who permits" such acts "is equally as guilty as the actual pillager." G. O. 107 of 1862. (Gen. Halleck.) In this connection see 1 Jour. Cong., 268; also Halleck, Int. Law, 442, 461.

5. On this subject, see remarks of Gen. Halleck, in G. O. 107 of 1862, also Do. 109, Id.; Do. 23, 42, Dept. of the Gulf, 1863; Field Circ. 2, Dept. & Army of the Tenn., 1864. In G. O. 3, Army of Occupation, W. Va., 1861; Do. 19, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1862,—teamsters and camp-followers are indicated as especially liable to the charge of plunder. And see G. O. 2, Dept. of Va., 1861.

As to the *levying of contributions*, see par. 1076, Army Regulations, G. O. 18, Dept. of the Rappahannock, 1862; DIGEST, 306; and Part II, "Military Government."

the other hand, is viewed as referring mainly to a regiment or other body on the march or operating in the field against the enemy.

To constitute the offence there must exist the *animus* indicated in the Article—"to," *i. e.* in order to, "plunder and pillage:" and this *animus* was expressed still more clearly in the early form¹ by the words—"to go in search of plunder." It must be shown that the officer or soldier left the command with a view to the forcible seizing and appropriating of public or private property; and whether private property sought to be taken belonged to persons hostile or friendly can in no manner affect the legal character of the offence.² The intent being complete, it is not essential that the property should actually be taken: that it is taken, however, will of course be the strongest evidence that the offender left his position for the purpose of taking it.

The offence is no less committed though the quitting of the post, &c., is by a *quasi* authority; as where soldiers go forth for the purpose of marauding under the orders of or in company with an officer or non-commissioned officer. In such a case, the act of the superior being prohibited and lawless, the legal offence of the soldier is as complete as if he had proceeded alone and of his own motion: his punishment, however, will properly be less severe than that adjudged his superior.

Punishment. The offences denounced by this Article, occurring as they mostly do in time of war, and generally in the presence of the enemy, and involving the gravest violation of orders of the military obligation, have always been made punishable by the extreme penalty of death.³ Formerly, for the crime of this behaviour before the enemy, this punishment was executed at the will of the commander and without trial;⁴ and when this crime was committed conjointly by any considerable number, their execution, or the summary taking of the life of every tenth man, was authorized by the Roman law.⁵ Indeed the stern necessity

¹ Art. 30 of 1775.

² So, "the penalty is the same whether the offence be committed in our own or in an enemy's territory." G. O. 107 of 1862. (Gen. Halleck.)

³ G. O. 23, Dept. of the Gulf, 1863—remarks of Gen. Banks.

⁴ See Samuel, 594.

⁵ Livius, lib. 2: Tacitus, an. 3; Samuel, 595, 600. This punishment

of war will at any time justify a commander in shooting down the leaders of a body of troops who abandon their colors during an engagement, if otherwise their revolt cannot effectually be suppressed; and a similar extreme measure will be warranted in case of individual soldiers separately guilty of gross and conspicuous cowardice or misbehaviour in battle, of attempted desertion to the enemy, or of violent or aggravated acts of plunder or pillage where peremptory orders to desist are unavailing, and the commander has no effectual means of restraint within his power.

Such summary proceedings are of course of rare occurrence. Courts-martial, however, when offenders of this class have been brought before them, have not hesitated to inflict the death penalty,¹ and during the late war of the rebellion capital sentences were repeatedly adjudged for marked cases of violation of this Article.² In cases of officers, dismissal has been almost invariably imposed, and in some instances there has been added disqualification to hold office.³ In one case a lieutenant was sentenced to be reduced to the ranks.⁴ In several cases the dismissal of the officer or discharge of the soldier has been made ignominious by requiring that the same shall be accompanied by a stripping off of insignia of rank, drumming out, shaving of the head, placarding with the word "coward," or branding with the letter "C,"

was also prescribed in Arts. 60, 67 and 73 of the Code of Gustavus Adolphus, and Art. 8 of James II.

1. G. O. 5 of 1857.

2. See cases published in G. O. 134, 317, of 1863; Do. 64, and G. C. M. O. 90, 272, 279, of 1864; Do. 91 of 1865; G. O. 22, Mountain Dept. 1862; Do. 40, Dept. and Army of the Tenn., 1864; Do. 174, Dept. of the Mo., 1864.

3. G. O. 18 of 1863; Do. 21, Dept. of the Tenn., 1863.

4. "To serve three years or during the war." G. O. 27 of 1864.

5. G. C. M. O. 107, 124, 126, 191, 332, of 1865; G. O. 73, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1864. Hough, (p. 346,) cites a case of an officer sentenced, upon conviction of misbehaviour before the enemy,—to be dismissed, and to have his "coat and commission torn before his face, his sash cut into pieces, and his sword broken over his head in the most public manner." Samuel, (p. 599,) mentions a case of "an adjutant general," sentenced, for cowardice—"to be cashiered, and his sword to be broken over his head, and that he should do the duty of a swabber in keeping clean the hospital ship of the fleet."

In our "additional" Article, No. 12 of 1775, it was prescribed for the offence of leaving post, &c., to go in search of plunder, that officers should be "cashiered and drummed out of the army with infamy," and that enlisted men should be whipped with from twenty to thirty

The matter of the direction in the sentence as to the publication in the newspapers of the particulars of the case, upon a conviction for *cowardice*, and the discontinuance thereupon of social relations between other officers and one who has been dismissed for such offence—has heretofore been noticed as enjoined in the 4th Article.¹

FORTY-THIRD ARTICLE.

Nature of the Offence. This Article, which has undergone material change since 1775,² refers, according to Samuel,³ to using "of direct force or compulsion," in contradistinction to the use of the "influence or persuasion" intended by the previous Article in the act therein specified of *speaking words inducing* the abandonment of a post, &c. The compulsion need not consist in the use of actual violence or force. An absolute refusal to obey orders or do duty, or to participate in any further measures of defence, might be as effectual a form of compulsion as if physical constraint were resorted to. Of the offence Samuel further states:⁴—"This amounts to a plain and palpable act of *mutiny*, signifying nothing less in effect than the supercession, or the assumption and exercise by force, of the powers of the governor or commanding officer, by his refractory troops." The moving cause or motive of the act, whether insubordination, cowardice, treachery, &c., is quite immaterial.⁵ It is observed by O'Brien⁶ that—"no amount of suffering, privation, or sickness, to which the garrison may be exposed by the firm intrepidity of the commander, will be held as an *excuse* for the crime." An instance of a trial for the specific offence made punishable by this Article is known to have occurred in our army.

and, further, that *all* offenders should "forfeit all share of the Merit" taken.

Chapter XX—"Dismissal."

The word *it*, after "give," found in the original Article, has apparently been inadvertently omitted in the present form, and must therefore be understood.

Page 608.

Idem.

See Hough, 359.

Page 148. But compare, in this connection, Art. 73 of the Code of Louis Adolphus.

XIX. THE FORTY-FIFTH AND FORTY-SIX ARTICLES.

[RELIEVING, AND COMMUNICATING WITH, THE ENEMY.]

"ART. 45. *Whosoever relieves the enemy with money or ammunition, or knowingly harbors or protects an enemy, or suffers death, or such other punishment as a court-martial may inflict.*

"ART. 46. *Whosoever holds correspondence with, or gives intelligence to, the enemy, either directly or indirectly, shall suffer death, or such other punishment as a court-martial may inflict.*

Origin of these Articles. These Articles may be traced to Arts. 3 and 4, Sec. II, of Charles I, Art. 8 of the Code of 1775, and to Arts. 67, 70, 71, 76 and 77 of Gustavus Adolphus's Code. In the American military law, they first appear as Arts. 45 and 46 of 1775.

This Class of Offences compared with Treason. *as such* is not an offence properly cognizable by a court-martial. The offences, however, which are the subject of these Articles are treasonable in their nature, and are characterized by the law as "overt acts of treason;" by O'Brien¹ as "closely connected with treason." Our Constitution, (Art. III, Sec. 3 § 1,) provides that—"Treason against the United States shall consist in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort." Wherever, therefore, an overt act is specified in these Articles gives substantial aid and comfort to the enemy, and thus evidences, so far forth, an adherence to the cause, it can scarcely be regarded as less than an act of treason.

1. See Gen. Hull's Trial, p. 118; In the matter of Stacy, 10 Jo. Procés du Marechal Ney, Part I, p. 70, and Part II, p. 33; also Dept. of the Mo., 1862; Do. 150, Dept. of the Ohio, 1863; Do. of the Northwest, 1864. "Treason" has sometimes been charged before military commissions, and, in the English practice, before martial law—as in Wolf Tone's case and the case of Geo. W. Gordon in Jamaica. See PART II.

2. Page 577. And see Id., p. 583.

3. Page 146.

4. See *Respublica v. Carlisle*, 1 Dallas, 39, a case of an indictment for giving intelligence to the enemy, &c.; also U. S. :

may thus happen that an offender whose crime has been committed upon the theatre of war, and who is thus amenable to trial for a military offence under one of these Articles, may at the same time be liable to an indictment for treason. A violation of Articles, however, will not amount to the latter offence, in absence of the requisite *animus* implied in the constitutional position.¹

Construction of the term "Whosoever." The subject of the interpretation of this initial word of the two Articles, as relating to the classes of persons made amenable thereby to trial by court-martial for the offences therein specified, has already been considered in Chapter VIII on Jurisdiction.

FORTY-FIFTH ARTICLE.

The Offence of Relieving the Enemy with Money, Victuals or Ammunition—"Relieves." This word is evidently employed not merely in the restricted sense of *alleviate* or *succor*, but also in that of *assist*. In the connection in which it is used it may be construed as substantially equivalent to *furnish* or *supply*.

The mere giving or selling to the enemy of any of the things specified, though the same may not really be *needed* by him, is so far, an assistance rendered him, and thus an offence within the Article. That the article furnished is *exchanged* for the commodity returned by the enemy does not, as noticed by Judge Advocate General,² affect the legal quality of the act.

Washington, 234, 238, where the court speaks of a form of treason as—"adherence to the enemy by supplying him with provisions." In a charge to the grand jury of the U. S. Circuit Court, in Nov. 1861, recorded in 5 Blatchford, 549, 550, Nelson J. clearly sets forth that giving intelligence, sending provisions or money, and furnishing arms or munitions to the enemy, are all overt acts of treason. And see In the matter of Macy, 10 Johns. 332; Jones v. Seward, 40 Barb. 563; also 4 Black. 11, 82, (and Christian's note;) Hensley's Case, 1 Bur. 650; Stone's Case, 6 Term, 527.

Thus correspondence with an enemy in regard to matters purely so-called domestic, while lacking the *animus* of treason, would, unless duly authorized, constitute an offence under Art. 46. (See *post.*) In Fottrell v. Herman, 5 Cold. 280, it was held not to be treason to relieve the sick and wounded of the enemy by renting a building for a hospital to a surgeon of the enemy's army—an act, however, which might be regarded as coming within the definition of the offence of *harboring* an enemy, and is punishable by Art. 45.

DIGEST, 20-21. And see G. O. 78, Mil. Div. W. Miss., 1864.

It is to be observed that the enemy must be *actually* relieved—reached by the succor or assistance tendered. An *attempt* to relieve him, not successful, will not constitute the specific offence.

“The enemy.” This term does not necessarily refer to the enemy’s government or army, nor is it required to constitute the offence that the relief should be extended *directly* to either: it is sufficient if it be furnished to a single citizen or to citizens, or to a member or members of the military establishment, in his or their individual capacity; the words thus admitting of the same import as the term *“an enemy”* which occurs subsequently in the Article. In the language of Chief Justice Chase of the U. S. Supreme Court,—“all the citizens or subjects of one belligerent” are “enemies of the government and of all the citizens or subjects of the other,” both in “civil and international wars.”¹ Relief, therefore, afforded to individuals is relief to *enemies*, and, so far forth also, relief to *the enemy* considered as a nation or government.

It need hardly be remarked that the term “the enemy,” or “an enemy,” does not include enemies regularly held as *prisoners of war*; such, while so held, being entitled, by the usages of civilized warfare, to be furnished with subsistence, quarters, &c.² It would include, however, a prisoner of war who has escaped and while he is at large,³ as also one who, having been made prisoner of war, has been paroled, and is at large upon his parole.⁴

1. The term “enemies,” as employed in the British statute against treasons, the 25th Edward III, from which our Constitutional provision on the same subject is taken, is defined, (4 Black. Com., 83; Simmons § 1070,) as including—“the subjects of foreign powers with whom we are at open war; pirates who may invade our coast; * * * and our own fellow-subjects when in actual rebellion.”

2. The Venice, 2 Wallace, 418. And see The Prize Cases, 2 Black, 666; also case of Mrs. Alexander’s Cotton, 2 Wallace, 274; Gooch v. U. S., 15 Ct. Cl. 287–8. The term “the enemy” includes not only civilians, soldiers, &c., but also persons who, by the laws of war, are outlaws—as “guerillas” and other freebooters. See G. O. 30, Dept. of the No., 1863.

3. Compare Hough, 328.

4. See the case of harboring, &c., an enemy, published in G. O. 88, Mil. Div. W. Miss., 1864, where the person harbored was an escaped prisoner of war.

5. In the leading case of B. G. Harris, a member of Congress from Maryland, the relieving by the accused, with money, of two soldiers of the army of the enemy, at large under their parole as prisoners of war,

The term under consideration embraces also—as has been specifically held by the Attorney General¹—an Indian tribe or band open hostility to the United States.

“Money, victuals, or ammunition.” In this enumeration the Article is bald and imperfect. Some such addition as *other thing, or or otherwise* is required to complete and render fully effective the enactment.² “Money” includes of course either metallic or paper currency, as also money issued by or current with the enemy as well as money of the country of the accused. As held by the Judge Advocate General,³ the furnishing of money to the enemy is no less a relieving of him where a consideration is received in return than where the amount supplied is a free gift. And convictions have been had, under the Article, for relieving the enemy with money, by purchasing (with money paid) cotton from agents of the Confederate government,⁴ as also by similarly purchasing Confederate bonds.⁵ “Victuals” is defined by Hough to be “any article that will support life;” and he concludes that all wines, spirituous liquors, “and even water are included in the term.”⁶ In the reported cases occurring during the late war, the most usual form of furnishing an enemy with victuals was for the accused to entertain him at meals at his residence.⁷ As to “ammunition,” no sufficient grounds are perceived

to be unlawfully within our lines, was considered by the court to be, as charged, an offence under Art. 45, and the conviction and sentence of the accused accordingly were duly approved. G. C. M. O. 260 of 1865; 30 Proceedings published in Ex. Doc., No. 14, H. of R., 39th Cong., 1st Sess. And compare XI Opins. At. Gen., 204.

1. XIII Opins. At. Gen., 470.

2. In the early Resolution of Congress, *in pari materia*, of Oct. 8, 1777, the particulars are stated as—“supplies of provision, money, clothing, arms, forage, fuel, or any kind of stores.” 2 Jour. Cong., 281.

3. DIGEST, 20–21.

4. G. O. 14, Mil. Div. W. Miss., 1865—where the accused is convicted having paid to the enemy’s agents about \$500,000 for cotton.

5. See G. O. 78, Mil. Div. W. Miss., 1864.

6. Page 327; Id., (P.) 158. In a case published in G. O. 27, Mil. Div. W. Miss., 1865, the enemy was relieved with “flour, coffee, oil, tins and whiskey.”

7. See G. O. 76, 175, of 1863; Do. 51 of 1864. Also G. C. M. O. 5 of 1865, where the accused procured two rebel soldiers to be fed at the house of a neighbor. In the cases of two women convicted of this offence by military commission, published in G. O. 148, Dept. of the

for ascribing to this word a meaning larger or other than that which it bears in common military parlance.¹

The Offence of Knowingly Harboring or Protecting an Enemy. This offence may be defined as consisting mainly in receiving and lodging, sheltering and concealing, or shielding from pursuit, arrest, or "any injury which in the chance of war may befall him,"² a person known as, or confidently believed to be and who is in fact, an enemy. If the party harboring, &c., is in no manner apprized that the other is an enemy, the specific offence is not committed; but where the circumstances are such as to induce the inference that he is or may be an enemy, it will be for the accused to rebut the presumption that he had the knowledge contemplated by the Article. In the cases as published in General Orders, this offence has commonly been committed by lodging or procuring lodging for officers or soldiers of the enemy's force,³ or by concealing them, and denying their presence or refusing to furnish any information of their whereabouts.⁴

Proof. It must of course appear that a *status belli* prevailed at the date of the offence, but of the existence of such status the court will ordinarily take judicial notice without proof. Where it is doubtful whether the war had begun at the time of the offence, or had not ended before such time or the time of the ordering of the court, it may be necessary to put in evidence the action of Congress or the Executive in declaring war, announcing the recurrence of peace, &c. A state of war being admitted or established, the fact that the party relieved, &c., was an enemy will be exhibited by evidence that he was a member of the mili-

Mo., 1863, the enemy, ("bushwhackers,") were relieved by sending and carrying victuals to them in the woods.

1. The view expressed by Hough, (p. 328,) that "ammunition" was synonymous with *munition*, and included arms and other *matériel* of war, does not seem to have been favored by other authorities.

2. Hough, 328.

3. See cases, cited in note *ante*, of relieving an enemy by entertaining him at meals,—in which cases he was generally also lodged.

4. See two cases in G. O. 52, Dept. of the Ohio, 1863. In a case in G. O. 88, Mil. Div. W. Miss., 1864, a seaman was convicted of harboring and protecting a prisoner of war, "by hiding him in the hold of the ship to enable him to escape."

ary force of the enemy, or a citizen or resident of the enemy's country.

Defence. The only justification of an act made punishable by this Article would ordinarily be the order or sanction of a competent military superior,¹ or an authority conferred by an Act of Congress or the President.²

Punishment. This, being in the discretion of the court, will commonly be not severe where the relief or harboring is but slight or for a very brief period, or where it is rendered to a destitute person; and will ordinarily be less severe where assistance is rendered to an individual for his personal benefit than where it is rendered to the government or the army of the enemy. But in every case the *animus* of the offender will properly be the most material circumstance to be considered in awarding the punishment. Where his act has proceeded from, or illustrates, a strong sympathy on his part with the cause of the enemy, or a marked animosity towards his own government, he will merit a much heavier penalty than where he was actuated mainly by an impulse of hospitality. Capital sentences were rarely imposed for violations of this Article during the late war; imprisonment and fine being the forms of punishment usually resorted to.³

FORTY-SIXTH ARTICLE.

The Offences made Punishable. This Article makes capital punishment by sentence of court-martial the two distinct acts of holding correspondence with, and giving intelligence to, the enemy; and all material communications made to the enemy

1. Samuel, 578-9; G. O. 78, Mil. Div. W. Miss., 1864.

2. See the Act of July 13, 1861, authorizing the President to permit commercial intercourse with persons in the insurrectionary States, under which it was held by the Supreme Court, (5 Wallace, 630; 6 Id., 521,) that the President was alone empowered to license such intercourse, and that a military or naval commander was not authorized to do so.

3. An instance of a *capital* sentence is found in G. O. 76 of 1863, where, however, the same was commuted by the President to imprisonment during the war at Fort Delaware. Instances of sentences of confinement at hard labor for *twenty* years occur in G. O. 14, 27, Mil. Div. W. Miss., 1865. In the case of Harris, (G. O. 260, of 1865,) the offender being an official person, (member of Congress,) disqualification for office was added to imprisonment.

will be found to be included within the one or the other description. The terms "*whosoever*" and "*the enemy*" have already been construed under the preceding Article.

Holding Correspondence with the Enemy. The word "*correspondence*" is understood to be here employed in its usual and familiar sense, as intending written communications, especially by letter, and embracing of course communications in print and telegrams. The term, however, is not to be viewed as implying that there has been, or should be, a mutual interchange of letters or communications between the accused and the enemy, nor is it necessary that the communication which is the occasion of the charge should be an answer to a previous one from the party to whom it is addressed. The offence may consist in the sending of a single letter, and this may be the first and the only one that has passed, or been attempted to be transmitted, between the parties.

Any correspondence with the enemy being a violation of the absolute rule of non-intercourse pertaining to a state of war, the Article, naturally, does not characterize the correspondence, the holding of which is made punishable, as treasonable, hostile, injurious, &c.,¹ but makes it an offence to hold *any* correspondence whatever. Not only therefore is correspondence by which valuable information is imparted or important public business transacted, as well as correspondence calculated to stimulate or encourage the enemy,² properly chargeable under the Article, but also correspondence of a comparatively harmless character—as the writing of a letter relating to private or domestic affairs.³ And so of the communicating to the enemy of supposed facts, which however are not true and do not therefore amount to the giving of intelligence.⁴

It is further to be observed that the crime is complete in the writing or preparing of the letter or other communication, and

1. In the "additional" Article of November, 1775, the offence was described as "holding a *treacherous* correspondence."

2. See case in G. O. 190, Dept. of the Mo., 1864; also case, (tried by a military commission,) in G. O. 132, Dept. of the Gulf, 1864.

3. Unless of course such correspondence be expressly authorized by the Government. See *post*, p. 907.

4. See *post*, p. 906, as to the offence of giving intelligence; also as to the punishment—p. 908.

committing it to a messenger, or otherwise putting it in the way to be delivered. It is not essential that it be received by the person for whom it is intended, or that it reach its place of destination. If it be intercepted while *in transitu*, the legal character of the offence will not be affected.¹

Living Intelligence to the Enemy. This offence will consist in communicating to the enemy, by personal statement, messenger, letter, signal or otherwise,² information in regard to the number, condition, position, or movements of the troops, amount of supplies, acts or projects of the government in connection with the conduct of the war, or any other fact or facts, or reports, that will instruct or assist him in the prosecution of hostilities.³

Of the specific instances of a direct violation of this Article which have been made the subject of trial, some of the principal, published in General Orders, are—the furnishing to the enemy of the defences of a military post;⁴ the pointing out to the enemy's cavalry the road by which a herd of government cattle had been driven to avoid capture, and stating that the same was guarded by a guard;⁵ the writing and sending letters to a person in rebel service in which information was given of the movements of troops and of intended military operations;⁶ and the giving of similar information to scouts of the enemy.⁷

It is necessary that the enemy shall have been *actually informed*. Therefore the intelligence fails to reach him, this offence is not completed, though the offence of holding correspondence may

Hensley's Case, 1 Bur. 65; Stone's Case, 6 Term, 527; Samuel, 580; *Republica v. Roberts*, 1 Dallas, 42; DIGEST, 21; also cases in G. O. 203, 204 of the Mo., 1864; Do. 132, Dept. of the Gulf, 1864.

See case in G. O. 26, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1864, in which a soldier giving a prisoner is charged with allowing the latter to escape *for the purpose* of having him communicate to the enemy valuable information. Art. 8 of James II made punishable the giving of intelligence "either by letters, messages, signs, or tokens, or in any manner of way whatsoever."

The intelligence may be of a negative character. Thus in Stone's Case, 6 Term, 527, the sending to the enemy a paper containing reasons *not invading* England was held to constitute high treason.

G. O. 242 of 1863.

G. O. 250 of 1863.

G. O. 371 of 1863.

G. O. 157 of 1864.

be.¹ It would seem also that the in part at least true, since, if they cannot be said to be given.

“Either Directly or Indirectly.” construed as applying to both the act and the last one only. The modes of holding intelligence already instanced have been the same. It was, however, the indirect mode, as in previous wars, the disclosure of the military authorities, which it was found necessary especially in the case of the publication in newspapers of numbers, organization, position, and other information which might readily be obtained in several instances the offence was the subject of charges under the present commission.⁵ The publishing of newspapers, of “Personals,” by correspondence was maintained with lines, was also expressly prohibited.

Proof. In addition to what has been said, (including the observations apposite here also—as to the propriety of a state of war, &c.) it may be added that the offence has been carried on, or intended, by communication in the *handwritten* form necessary to prove this in the usual manner XVIII. Where the communication

1. “It is essential to the offence of disclosing that material information should act as a deterrent.” DIGEST, 21.

2. See G. O. of Nov. 27, 1812; Tul.

3. G. O. 67 of 1861; Do. 151 of 1862; Do. 29, 48, Id., 1863; Do. 44, Id. 1862.

4. G. O. 10, Dept. of Washington, 1863.

5. G. O. 29, Army of the Potomac,

6. G. O. 10, Dept. of the East, 1863.

of a key, or a knowledge of and ability to employ the cipher, must ordinarily be brought home to the party.¹

Defence. The general principle laid down as applicable to defences to charges under the 45th, is apposite under the present Article.

Under a charge for holding correspondence, where the communication referred solely to private or domestic affairs, it would be a good defence to show that the same was authorized under regulations such as those which prevailed during the late war, by which communications of such a character were permitted to be exchanged with the enemy through the lines at Fortress Monroe.

A not unusual form of defence to a charge of giving intelligence to the enemy, (especially where it was verbally and personally communicated to the enemy in his presence,) has been that the same was furnished *under duress*. But to constitute this defence, the duress must have been such as to put the party in reasonable fear of present *death* if he refused to give the information required of him. Any form of bodily constraint or injury, not immediately endangering life, although it might be admitted as evidence in mitigation of punishment, would not amount to a defence in law. Thus, neither the mere *presence* of a force of the enemy sufficient to overpower the party and destroy him, nor the ordering him peremptorily to furnish the information desired, nor the imprisoning of him until he should disclose facts within his knowledge, would constitute the defence of *duress*, where his life was not seriously threatened or otherwise put in actual peril.²

Punishment. The penalty to be awarded will properly depend upon the *animus* of the offender, whether treasonable, treacherous, or sympathetic with the enemy's cause, or comparatively innocent of any such feeling; upon the matter of the communi-

1. In *Smithson's Case*, (G. O. 371 of 1863,) the letter conveying intelligence to the enemy was signed with a fictitious name and enclosed in an envelope addressed in *cipher*. See also a case of writing a letter with a fictitious signature in G. O. 203, Dept. of the Mo., 1864.

2. See the analogous case of entering the military service of the enemy under duress, in *Republica v. McCarthy*, 2 Dallas, 86; *U. S. v. Vigol*, 346; *U. S. v. Greiner*, 4 Philad. 396. And compare *U. S. v. Hodges*, 465. See also, in this connection, the comments of the Secretary of War upon the finding in *Cashell's Case*, in G. O. 250 of 1863.

cation—whether beneficial to the enemy, authentic and amounting merely to hearsay or rumor; upon the form of imparting it—as whether it be communicated by the enemy's government or its official or military representative to a private individual, &c. The death penalty has been adjudged in our practice for a violation of this Article. Imprisonment has been the more usual punishment.¹ In some cases the sentence has required that the accused be sent beyond the lines of the army.³

XX. THE FORTY-SEVENTH, FORTY-EIGHTH, NINTH, FIFTIETH, AND FIFTY-FIRST ART

[DESERTION AND KINDRED OFFENCES.]

"ART. 47. Any officer or soldier who, having received his commission, having been duly enlisted in the service of the United States, and who deserts the same, shall, in time of war, suffer death, or such punishment as a court-martial may direct; and in time of peace, such punishment, excepting death, which a court-martial may direct."

"ART. 48. Every soldier who deserts the service of the United States shall be liable to serve for such period as shall, within the term of his enlistment, he may have served previous to his desertion, amount to the term of his enlistment; and such soldier shall be tried by court-martial and punished, although the term of his enlistment may have elapsed previous to his being apprehended and tried."

"ART. 49. Any officer who, having tendered his resignation, quits his post or proper duties, without leave, and without being recalled, shall remain permanently absent therefrom, prior to due notice of acceptance of the same, shall be deemed and punished as a deserter."

"ART. 50. No non-commissioned officer or soldier shall, without the sanction of his commanding officer, join himself in any other regiment, troop, or company, without being discharged from the regiment, troop, or company in which he is now serving, on a penalty of being reputed a deserter, and suffering the same punishment as a deserter."

1. G. O. 106, 157, of 1864; Do. 67, Dept. of the Gulf, 1865.

2. In a case published in G. O. 14, Mil. Div. W. Miss., 1861, the sentence is confinement at hard labor for twenty years.

3. Thus, in a case in G. O. 58, Dept. of the Mo., 1863, the sentence was—"To be sent South beyond the lines of the Federal force to see a similar sentence in G. O. 13, Dept. of the Tenn., 1863.

dingly. And in case any officer shall knowingly receive and entertain such non-commissioned officer or soldier, or shall not, after being discovered to be a deserter, immediately confine him and give notice thereof to the corps in which he last served, the said officer shall, by a court-martial, be cashiered.

"ART. 51. Any officer or soldier who advises or persuades any other officer or soldier to desert the service of the United States, or, in time of war, suffer death, or such other punishment as a court-martial may direct; and in time of peace, any punishment, excepting death, which a court-martial may direct."

FORTY-SEVENTH ARTICLE.

Previous Legislation. This is Art. 20 of the code of 1806, materially modified, and—consolidated with it—the Act of May 29, 1830, c. 183, prohibiting the imposition of the death penalty for desertion committed in time of peace. In the code of 1775, desertion and absence without leave were made punishable by the provisions of the same Article—No. 8. In that of 1776, the two provisions were embodied in separate Articles, that relating to absence without leave, (now contained in Art. 32,) following that after that relating to desertion.

In the British law, desertion—formerly declared a *felony* by statute,¹ and therefore not made punishable as a military offence by the earlier military codes—is now, (as with us,) a purely military offence cognizable only by court-martial.²

Desertion Defined.³ A deserter is one who absents himself from his regiment, or military station or duty, and from the serv-

¹ Desertion, which was originally a civil offence in the English law, soldiers not being enlisted by the State, but by private contractors engaging to furnish certain numbers of men for the army,) appears to have been first declared to be *felony* by the 18th Henry VI, c. 19. See Tytler, *ibid.* 5; Samuel, 71–74; Simmons § 1088; Manual, 8; also *Trask v. Payne*, Barb. 575. In the early (1688) case of *King v. Dale*, (or *Beale*,) 2 *Howell*, 511, and 12 *Howell* St. Tr., 262, a soldier convicted of desertion was *attainted of felony* and executed accordingly. By the original Military Act of 1689, desertion was first made punishable by court-martial within the kingdom.

² See Army Act, s. 12.

³ Besides those whom the military common law defines as deserters, certain classes of officers have been expressly declared to be such—viz. Sec. 1229, Rev. Sts., (authorizing the dropping as deserters of officers

ice, without authority, and with the intent to desert. The offence of desertion thus consists in absence without leave coupled with the purpose not to rejoin the military service, the same altogether, or at least to terminate the existing military status and obligation. *revertendi* which is the gist and essence of the offence.

The absence. This may be unauthorized as is the case in the majority of instances where a soldier not returning at the expiration of a leave of absence. A soldier may even be granted a brief leave of absence from his post, but is not authorized to be thus absent from the post for a period incompatible with his deserting from the service. Further, the absence may be original or derivative. If by an agency beyond the control of the soldier, as when he has been taken prisoner by the enemy: if he is released or escaping, he does not return to the service; or if, upon his return, he is found to have absented himself without leave for a period presently to be considered.

During the late war, *drafted persons* failing to appear for service, were, by the Act of Congress, 1864, made amenable to military law as *deserters*, and many of this class were brought before the courts in G. O. 85, 86, Northern Dept., 1864; G. O., Dept. of the Monongahela, 1863; G. O., Dept. of the Susquehanna, and Dept. of Pennsylvania, 1865; G. O. of the last-named Dept., of 1865.

1. As defining, or illustrating the definition of desertion, see 323; Hough, 136-7; Id., (P.) 131; Simm, 22; Harcourt, 25; Manual, 20, 21; O'Brien, 59, Army of the Potomac, 1861; Do. 32, Dept. of the Platte, 1869; Do. 6, Dept. of the Mo., 1870; Hickey v. Huse, 115 Mass. 336, 342; XV Opins.

Desertion *at maritime law* is similarly defined. It is the desertion of a ship and her service, not only without leave, but with an intent not again to return to the service. It is thus a distinction taken between a mere desertion and a desertion *animo derelinquendi*. See Duties of Merchant Seamen, 129. And: 138; Cloutman v. Tunison, 1 Sumner, 37.

2. See case in G. C. M. O. 90, Dept. of the Interior, 21 § 17.

der duress' but of his own choice,) in the enemy's army,—he is a deserter.² Again the absence may be caused originally by arrest or imprisonment of the accused, as an offender against local law, by the civil authorities. Or it may consist in an avoidance of military arrest or confinement; as where an officer or soldier escapes while held in close arrest or confinement awaiting trial or sentence, or while under sentence.³ And an enlisted soldier may absent himself and desert, while already in the status of a deserter from a previous enlistment, the fact that he is amenable to justice for a certain desertion not affecting his capacity to desert again.

Nature of the intent. Thus the status of the party at the time of the unauthorized absence is immaterial provided such absence is induced by the requisite legal *animus*. This, though sometimes so described, is not necessarily an *animus* to abandon altogether the military service; since a desertion may be committed in quitting without a discharge, one regiment or command, with the view of entering another, and thereupon enlisting therein.⁴ The rescinding of the *existing contract* of enlistment—involved indeed in all desertions—may thus constitute the *animus* of, and complete, the offence.

Presumption of the intent. The nature of the intent in desertion is best understood in considering the acts and occurrences from which it may be presumed, its existence being in general wholly a matter of inference from the circumstances of a particular case. The mere fact of an unauthorized absence for a certain period is not, in our law, either conclusive or *prima facie* evidence of the requisite intent.⁵ A protracted unexplained

1. *Respublica v. McCarthy*, 2 Dallas, 86; *U. S. v. Vigol*, Id., 346. And DIGEST, 395.

2. Note in this connection the declaration in G. O. 53, Dept. of the M., 1863, to the effect that all officers or soldiers giving their paroles to prisoners of war, otherwise than as prescribed by the cartel of exchange, will be considered deserters and punished accordingly.

3. As to the *animus* in cases of *escape*, see *post*.

4. See "Fiftieth Article," *post*.

5. "Mere length of absence is, by itself, of little value as a test, for a soldier who has been entrapped into bad company through drink, or other causes, may be absent some time without any thought of becoming a deserter." Manual, 20.

absence affords indeed a strong presumption that the party presented himself with the *animus* of desertion, and the longer the absence, (prior to the arrest,) the stronger, in general, the presumption. To infer such intent solely from unauthorized absence of but brief duration will commonly be unwarranted: absence, however, for a few days or even a part of a day, may, under certain circumstances, fully justify such an inference; and, in time of *war*,³ an absence of slight duration may be as significant as a considerably longer one in time of peace.

The circumstances which may go to indicate that the absence has been actuated by the *animus* in question are numerous and varied, consisting as they may do in acts or declarations of the accused, not only prior to the offence but also pending his absence, and at the time of or after his apprehension. Among such circumstances the more familiar are—Secretly making preparations as for a permanent absence, by collecting or disposing of personal effects,⁴ &c.; procuring a civilian's dress or other disguise; declarations by the accused to comrades, &c., of a desire to quit the service or command; attempts to persuade others to decamp with him; taking a horse, arms, ammunition, clothing, rations, or such other property of the government, (or of individuals,) as may facilitate a rapid removal, defend against arrest, protect against the weather, provide sustenance, &c.; taking passage on a railway train, steamer, or other conveyance for a distant point;⁵ the commission, in leaving, of some other military offence necessary to effectuate the desertion, as a quitting of his post as a sentinel;⁶ the fact that he has committed a homicide,

1. See G. C. M. O. 31 of 1876. Bringing to trial for desertion soldiers who have simply been absent without authority for a few days has been not unfrequently condemned in the G. O. See G. O. 19 of 1829; Do. 59, Army of the Potomac, 1861; Do. 57, Dept. of the Mo., 1867.

In G. O. 84 of 1885, it is directed as follows:—"No man shall be reported a deserter until after the expiration of ten days, (should he remain that length of time away,) unless the company commander has conclusive evidence of the absentee's intention not to return."

2. An absence of an *hour* was held sufficient where the accused was pursued and apprehended in the act of flight. G. C. M. O. 33, Dept. of the Mo., 1870.

3. See the stringent order of Gen. Terry in G. O. 11, Twenty-Fourth Army Corps, 1864.

4. Hough, 137; Pipon & Col., 152.

5. Samuel, 323; Simmons § 182; Manual, 20.

6. Hough, 142.

ny, embezzlement, or other crime, for which he would have liable to severe punishment;² the fact that, in leaving, he escaped from a confinement or close arrest; his writing, during absence, to comrades, &c., declaring an intention not to n; his assuming, during absence, a false name, or resorting to other means to conceal his identity and avoid detection; his being apprehended at a long distance from his station;³ his being arrested and overtaken when in evident flight; his being found, at rest, dressed wholly or partly in civilians' clothes,³ or otherwise disguised; his resisting arrest; his denying, upon arrest, his identity, making false or contradictory statements, or failing to explain satisfactorily his absence;⁴ his surrendering himself as a deserter, &c.

Interpretation of the Article—"Having received pay and having been duly enlisted." These words are evidently intended to include all persons who, as officers or soldiers, have entered into a formal or informal engagement or enlistment, as required by their receipt of pay or otherwise, to render military service to the United States.⁵ In what consists an enlistment has been considered under the "Second Article."

Time of war. This term, as employed in the Articles of War, has already been construed as including not only foreign civil war but a period of hostilities against an Indian tribe.

Court-martial. Under this general description, desertion (committed in time of peace, when it is not a capital offence,)

Simmons § 816; Hough, 138; Pipon & Col., 152; G. O. 32, Dept. of the Platte, 1869; G. C. M. O. 52 of 1877, (Lieut. Fleming's case;); ST, 221-2.

But that desertion cannot "invariably be judged by distance"—Simmons § 183, repeated in Manual, 21.

Samuel, 323; Hough, 137; Pipon & Col., 149; Manual, 20, 21; Manual, 96; G. O. 91, Army of the Potomac, 1863.

G. O. 91, Army of the Potomac, 1863; Do. 33, Dept. of the North-1864; Simmons § 878.

The view of O'Brien, (p. 96,) that, of these words, those alluding to receipt of pay were intended to apply rather to officers than to soldiers, is not sustained by a reference to the history of the Article as derived from the British Mutiny Act. The present phraseology would be simplified and improved by omitting altogether these words, and might the Article read—*Any officer or soldier who deserts the military service of the United States shall, &c.*

may legally be taken cognizance of by a regimental or garrison court. In view, however, of the limited power of sentence in inferior tribunals by Art. 83, cases of desertion are invariably referred for trial to *general* courts in time of peace equally a time of war.

Charge. Forms of charges of desertion are given in the appendix. It need only be observed here that the specifications should state whether the accused surrendered himself or was apprehended, and, where the desertion charged is a second offence, may properly so aver by way of inducement.

Plea. The subject of pleading guilty, under a charge of desertion, to the lesser offence only of absence without leave; as also the subject of the introduction of evidence in connection with the plea of guilty of desertion, and of the relation between "statement," (if any,) and the plea where such plea is interposed—have been considered in a previous Chapter.¹

Proof. In order to substantiate a charge of desertion under this Article, it is necessary to establish—1, The fact of a receipt of pay by the accused as an officer or soldier, or of his due enlistment; 2, The fact that he absented himself without authority; 3, The fact that he did so with the intention not to return. The *onus* of proving each of these facts rests upon the prosecution.

Proof of receipt of pay or enlistment. It will rarely be necessary to present this part of the proof in a formal manner. The accused indeed will generally admit of record, or not contest the point that he is duly in the military service within the contemplation of the Article. In rare cases,—as where a soldier claims that his enlistment was illegal and void,—it may become essential to introduce, (in the original or by copy,) the enlistment contract or the official roll containing a receipt of pay signed by the accused, or, in the absence of such written testimony, some competent parol evidence either of an actual receipt of pay or of acts held equivalent in law to a formal enlistment.² Commonly, however, it will be sufficient to identify the accused as one who having voluntarily served and acted as a soldier, (or an officer,) and

1. Ch. XVI.

2. As to these acts, see under Article 2, *ante*.

he regiment, or corps, &c., named, is estopped to deny his amenability as such.¹

Proof of the unauthorized absence. This is in general easily made by the commanding officer, first sergeant, or other officer or non-commissioned officer of the command who is cognizant of the fact. If it is alleged that the offence was committed when the accused was on leave of absence or furlough, the written authority, or its details, should be put in evidence, with proof that the accused failed to return at the proper time. Proof merely of absence is not proof of absence without authority, nor does it impose upon the accused the *onus* of showing that he had authority: the want of authority must be affirmatively established by the prosecution. Thus it has been held that evidence that a soldier, when absent from his post, was arrested, was not proof that he was absent without authority.² A mere *attempt* by a soldier to absent himself without leave has also been held not to be sufficient evidence of an unauthorized absence.³

Proof of the intent. Except where established by a specific declaration of the same by the accused, the fact that he absented himself *animo non revertendi* is proved as a presumption⁴ from some one unequivocal fact, as an unexplained long-protracted absence without authority, or—more commonly—from a combination of circumstances having a similar significance. The more familiar of such circumstances have already been instanced as illustrating the definition of desertion, and need not be repeated. It may be added that facts should not be accepted as proof of the intent, which, though casting suspicion upon the accused, are yet consistent with his innocence. As, for example, the fact that while absent without authority he was *arrested as a deserter*.⁵

1. In some cases the proceedings have been disapproved on account of the absence of *any* proof whatever of receipt of pay or enlistment. See, for example, G. O. 2, Dept. of the East, 1863; Do. 31, 45, 52, 63, Id., 1864; Do. 5, Id., 1865.

2. See G. O. 50, Dept. of Cal., 1867.

3. See G. O. 27, Dept. of Dakota, 1868.

4. "Presumptive evidence on this point is generally the best that can be produced." O'Brien, 304.

5. G. C. M. O. 1, Dept. of Texas, 1875; *Fitchburg v. Lunenburg*, 52 Mass. 358. Nor does the fact that, upon arrest, he was closely *confined* imply in law anything more than that he is *charged with the offence*. See G. O. 50, Dept. of Cal., 1867.

It is a matter of common knowledge that soldiers, when thus sent, are not unfrequently arrested by policemen or others with a view to the obtaining of the reward for the apprehension of deserters; but from such an arrest alone, even in a case when reward has been paid,¹ it would not be safe or just to presume that the soldier was absent with the *animus* of desertion. This *animus* is not to be presumed from the mere fact alone that the soldier has *escaped* from a confinement, since he may have liberated himself for some such purpose as the procuring of liquor, tobacco, &c.²

In making proof of the intent it is important to require witnesses to confine themselves to *facts within their knowledge*, not merely as distinguished from hearsay³ but from opinion; being one of the instances where witnesses are most apt to draw *conclusions* which it is not for them but for the court to deduce. Thus a witness should not be asked whether the accused "deserted," or what he knows about his "desertion," or the like. Nor should he be allowed in his testimony to characterize the conduct of the accused as a "desertion" or to speak of him as having "deserted,"—at least without stating the specific facts upon which his deduction is based. The author has had occasion to examine many cases where the sole testimony upon which the conviction was founded was that of an officer or non-commissioned officer to the effect that the accused "deserted" at a certain time. Such an assertion is not, strictly, evidence, and where admitted in evidence should not in general be accepted by the reviewing authority as sustaining the finding.⁴

1. G. O. 30, Northern Dept., 1864; G. C. M. O. 55, Dept. of the North, 1872.

2. In G. O. 87, Dept. of the South, 1872, a conviction of desertion was disapproved on the ground that the evidence showed "merely an escape from the guard-house without intention to leave the service or the vicinity of the post." In G. O. 32, Id., 1873, a similar conviction was disapproved in a case where it appeared that the escaping was the act of a drunken man to obtain more liquor. And see DIGEST, 223, with citation, (in note,) from Samuel, 324.

3. That it is important that the evidence should be direct and not hearsay is noticed in G. O. 39, Dept. of the Platte, 1871. And see G. O. 8, Dept. of the Gulf, 1873; G. C. M. O. 37, Dept. of Texas, 1875.

4. In a case in G. C. M. O. 1, Dept. of Texas, 1875, where the witness testified that the accused "deserted," and was subsequently arrested and returned "as a deserter," the conviction was disapproved.

Written evidence—Charging desertion distinguished from proof of it. It is also important to remark that a note or entry upon a muster-roll, morning report book, descriptive list or other official certificate or statement, to the effect that a soldier has deserted, is no proof whatever of the intent essential in desertion, nor admissible in evidence to establish the commission of the offence, upon a trial by court-martial. Such an entry or record is, so far as respects such a trial, a *charge* of desertion and no more. No statute has made it proof of the offence, and to hold it so would be to substitute the opinion of an officer for the determination of a court-martial—the only authority empowered to find the offence and affix the penalty. Whatever effect, therefore, it may have for other purposes, it cannot legally be availed of as proof of desertion before a military tribunal.*

Defence. The accused may show in defence that he has neither received pay in the service nor been legally enlisted herein, and is therefore not amenable under this Article.* Or

Gen. Augur, on account of the insufficiency of the evidence. And see DIGEST, 222.

1. "Upon the muster-roll, which is made every two months, the reasons and time of absence of each soldier are required to be entered," (by the 12th Art. of war,) "and entry of the word '*deserted*' by the commanding officer of the company, (who is then to account for all the men of his command,) against the name of the soldier, is in the nature of a *charge* against such soldier of the crime of desertion; but it is *not an adjudication* that he is guilty of the offence, which, as it is one of the gravest offences known to the military law, can be made only by a court-martial." Devens J., in *Hanson v. S. Scituate*, 115 Mass. 341. "He is not made a deserter by the entry of his name as such in the company books." G. O. 10, Dept. of the Platte, 1871. "The entry on the roll of a company that a soldier has deserted is not proof of the offence, but merely evidence that he has been charged with its commission." Circ., Dept. of Dakota, Jan. 3, 1873. "The descriptive roll introduced as evidence against the prisoner for desertion was simply no evidence whatever, and he could not legally be convicted of desertion upon it. * * * The roll was not evidence: * * * is not legal evidence: * * * was not proper evidence." Four cases in G. O. 29, Northern Dept., 1864. And see Do. 91 of 1881; Do. 12, Middle Dept., 1865; G. C. M. O. 33, Dept. of the Mo., 1875; Do. 22, Dept. of the East, 1882; Do. 1, Dept. of Texas, 1883; DIGEST, 222. So, in G. O. 30, Northern Dept., 1864, an official communication from a quartermaster to a company commander, in which the former informed the latter that he had paid the reward for the arrest as a deserter, of a soldier belonging to the company, was properly held to be no evidence of the desertion.

2. See *ante*; also under Second Article—"Enlistment." That it is

he may show that his absence was not unauthorized : and it be a good defence that he was absent in good faith by the permission of a superior, although the latter may have had no authority to allow such absence. So it will be a good defence that the accused, being absent by authority, was prevented from return at the expiration of his leave or furlough, by serious disability or illness ;¹ but this defence must, if practicable, be sustained by evidence of a medical officer of the army, or, in the absence of such an officer, a civil physician. It will further be a sufficient defence to the charge of desertion that the absence of the accused was caused by his being, (involuntarily,) taken prisoner, and held as a prisoner, by the enemy ;² or that it was occasioned by being forced by his comrades to leave the company ;³ or that it was the result of his having been arrested and detained in confinement by the civil authorities.⁴ Having been so arrested and held after a desertion had been consummated would of course be unavailing as a defence.

It will also be a good defence that the deserter has been restored to duty by competent authority under par. 218 of the Army Regulations, which clearly contemplates that, upon such restoration a *trial* shall be dispensed with.

It would further be a complete defence, that the accused gave himself up under and within the terms of a proclamation of the President, offering amnesty or exemption from trial to soldiers absent in desertion if duly returning to the service.⁵ It may appear indeed that the accused has complied with the *condition*

no defence that he had not received all the pay due him, see Hutchings v. Van Bokkelen, 34 Maine, 133.

1. Compare the similar provision of the maritime law, stated by Pothier—as cited by Curtis, in Rights and Duties of Merchant Seamen, 13.

2. Pipon & Col., 56. As to the defence of *duress*, to a charge of desertion to the enemy, see DIGEST, 395; also Chapter XVII—"Compulsion of the enemy, &c."

3. This defence was recognized as sufficient in G. C. M. O. 97, Dept. of Cal., 1884.

4. See G. C. M. O. 55, Dept. of the Mo., 1872.

5. See the proclamations and announcements of this character published or referred to in the following General Orders of the War Department:—G. O. of Nov. 5, 1811; Do. of June 17, 1814; Do. 35 of 1848; Do. 58 of 1863; Do. 35 of 1865; Do. 43 of 1866; Do. 102 of 1873. A proclamation of this kind was directed to be issued by Gen. Washington by a Resolution of Congress of Oct. 17, 1777. 2 Jour. Cong., 294.

any, of the pardon or immunity offered—as, for instance, that he returned voluntarily, and within the specified time.¹

Whether it would constitute a defence to a charge of desertion that, at the date of his absenting himself, the contract of the soldier had been, or was believed by him to have been, performed, would depend in a measure on the circumstances of the case. A soldier cannot assume to discharge himself;² but where, the legal term of enlistment having fully expired, the soldier duly applies for but fails to receive, within a reasonable time, the discharge due him, he can scarcely be charged with the crime of desertion if he thereupon withdraws himself from the military service. Such cases, however, must be most rare. Where indeed, as occurred in some instances during the late war,³ the soldier abandons the service under a *bona fide* but mistaken idea as to the duration of his term, which in fact has not yet legally expired, his error will constitute no *defence* to a charge of desertion, though it will materially extenuate the quality of the offence committed.

It may be added that it has been held no defence that the accused, when he deserted, was a deserter from a previous enlistment, since this fact did not make the second enlistment void but voidable only at the pleasure of the government.⁴

Upon the defence the accused may put in evidence any facts tending to negative the presumption that he absented himself with the *intent* of desertion;⁵—as, for example, the fact that he absented himself when under the influence of liquor; that when

1. G. O. 61, Dept. of the East, 1865.

2. *Ante*—"Fourth Article."

3. See, for example, case in G. O. 77, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1867, where the defence of a soldier, charged with desertion, that, having been enlisted *for the war*, he had a right to leave the service when active hostilities were over, was held by Gen. Thomas to have been improperly accepted by the court. See also case of soldiers—about two hundred—of the First Michigan Cavalry, who, having re-enlisted, in December, 1863, "for three years or during the war," and having been ordered in June, 1865, to New Mexico to quell an Indian outbreak, left the regiment and returned to their homes, and were held to be deserters. XVI Opins. U. S. Gen., 675. Also cases in G. O. 80 and 108, Army of the Potomac, 1862, of members of a volunteer regiment who left the service in the belief that their three months' term had expired, and were held properly treated and convicted as deserters. And compare *Wilbur v. Grace*, 12 Johns. 72.

4. G. C. M. O. 83, Dept. of the Mo., 1873; Do. 67, Dept. of Cal., 1884.

5. "Every facility should be given him to introduce testimony in his defence." G. O. 91, Army of the Potomac, 1863. (Gen. Meade.)

that he had been induced to leave by the prevalence of an epidemic or contagious disease at the post;¹ that his rations had been for a considerable period deficient in quantity or quality;² that he had not been furnished with proper quarters, or sufficient clothing or blankets, especially in winter;³ that his pay had been in arrears for an unreasonably long period in arrears; that he was young and inexperienced in the service, and had been influenced by the advice or example of older soldiers or of a non-commissioned officer deserting with him; that he had never been made acquainted with the Articles of war and did not comprehend the gravity of the offence;⁴ that he surrendered himself as a deserter but a brief absence.⁵

that, and that they would be willing to pay his passage" if he would go. He disappeared accordingly but was subsequently arrested, tried, and severely sentenced. It was held that the conduct of the officers was an "invitation" to the soldier to commit the crime, and the sentence was in great part remitted, by Gen. Dix.

1. See G. O. 26, 27, Dept. of the Mo., 1867. *Contra*—G. O. 35, 1st Mil. Dist., 1867.

2. At maritime law, "it is not desertion to leave the ship on account of cruel or oppressive treatment, or for want of sufficient provisions in port when they can be procured by the master." Curtis, Rights and Duties of Merchant Seamen, 131. What would absolutely excuse desertion in the merchant service may reasonably be held to palliate it in the similar but stricter law of discipline governing the soldier.

3. In a case in G. O. 19, Dept. of Cal., 1866, a sentence of a deserter was mitigated by Gen. McDowell, for the reason that, upon his enlistment during the months following of November and December, he had no clothing nor blankets issued to him, though abundant supplies of the same were on hand.

4. In a case in G. C. M. O. 73, Dept. of the East, 1872, Gen. McDowell mitigates the sentence, for desertion, of a recruit, "in consideration of the fact that he had been in service but a few days, and had not read the Articles of War."

A case may be noted here, which, in 1869, was brought to the attention of the Secretary of War, by the diplomatic representative of Switzerland at Washington, of a Swiss—George Tobler—who had enlisted in our army and deserted, in whose behalf it was urged that his offence had been induced by nostalgia, or *maladie du pays*. While this fact could not be accepted as excusing the offence, (especially as the right of expatriation is asserted by our laws—Sec. 1999, Rev. Sts.,) the discharge of the soldier was, as a matter of comity, conceded.

5. Hough, 141; Simmons § 180; G. O. 10, 52, Dept. of the Platte, 1871; G. C. M. O. 174, Dept. of the East, 1871; Do. 29, Dept. of Cal., 1872.

Finding. The authority of a court-martial, under the established usage of our service, to find not guilty of the charge, where the requisite *animus* is not proved, but *absence without leave*, has been remarked upon in a Chapter.¹ The finding, under a charge of desertion, or *to desert*, is expressly authorized in the British law,² and is considered, properly be sanctioned in our service.³

Punishment.⁴ The Article leaves the punishment to the discretion of the court. In our army at present the usual punishment for desertion is—dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all allowances, (a penalty in great measure unnecessary because of the forfeitures incurred by operation of law,⁵) and confinement at hard labor in a military prison for from two to five years. The duration of the term of confinement is commonly measured by the presence or absence of such circumstances as that the offender has similarly offended on a previous occasion or occasion in deserting, he abandoned an important duty—as that of guard over prisoners, or committed some such criminal act as larceny or embezzlement of public property or a violation of Art. 17; that he induced others to desert with him, or was persuaded by others—his superiors or seniors—to desert; that he was a recruit, or an experienced soldier or non-commissioned officer;⁶ that he was apprehended or that he surrendered himself; or by any other circumstance illustrating the original guilt, subsequent intentions, &c., of the party, and that the court either to dispose the court unfavorably or to render it lenient. In time of war, when the offence is made *capital*—i. e. p

1. Ch. XIX.

2. Army Act, s. 56. (3.)

3. It has been so sanctioned in a naval case. *Dynes v. Hood*, Howard, 65. And see *Bankhead v. U. S.*, 20 Ct. Cl. 405.

4. See Chapter XX—"SENTENCE AND PUNISHMENT."

5. See *post*.

6. That a recruit is in general to be less severely, and a non-commissioned officer more severely, punished, upon conviction of desertion, see G. C. M. O. 174, Dept. of the East, 1871; Do. 47, 140, Id., 1874; Id., 1873; G. O. 71, Dept. of the South, 1874.

7. In a case in G. O. 24, Div. of the Pacific, 1868, the court is said to have given a lenient punishment "on account of the condition of the accused, whose foot and lower leg are rendered useless by frost bite, which occurred during the period of his unauthorized absence."

le capitally—by the Article, desertion is visited with especial severity.¹ Desertion to the enemy is almost invariably punished with death; and this penalty has also not unfrequently been enacted in cases where the party has enlisted solely with the view obtaining a bounty and then abandoning the service.²

Legal Consequences of Desertion. Irrespectively and independently of the *punishments* which are or may be awarded by court-martial upon conviction of desertion, there are certain legal consequences resulting from the commission of this offence which some notice is desirable to a completion of the present subject. These consequences, which do not require to be expressed in the sentence, but which result *by operation of law* upon the ascertainment of the *fact* of desertion, are as follows:—

1. In a Resolution of Congress of June 20, 1777, (2 Jour. Cong., 173,) it is declared that when the desertion is *to the enemy*, "the offence becomes doubly heinous and wicked, the person committing it being guilty both perjury and treason." In Circ., Twenty-fourth Army Corps, March 21, 1865, the Dept. Commander announces—"I will give one hundred dollars reward and three months' leave or furlough, to any officer or soldier who shoots, or brings in, a deserter going to the enemy." To a similar effect see G. O. 136, Eighteenth Army Corps, 1864. And also, generally, Leiber's Instructions, G. O. 100 of 1863 § 48.

2. In the case of James Devlin, *alias* Pat Diamond, *alias* Frank Tully, a prostitute,—one of the most conspicuous of the class of professional deserters, known in the late war as "*bounty-jumpers*,"—published in G. O. 9, Dept. of the East, 1865, Gen. Dix, in approving the death sentence, and ordering it to be presently executed, adds as follows:—"The Major-General Commanding is thus prompt in the execution of the sentence pronounced upon the accused, on account of the aggravated circumstances of the case. Within the period of eight months he enlisted twice in the Army, and once in the Navy, having twice during the same period, deserted the flag of his country. His case is one of those in which bad men, tempted by enormous bounties, enlist into the service for the sake of making money, with the deliberate purpose of deserting, and in which the profit is proportioned to the number of successful repetitions of the crime. By common consent, these infamous men are designated by the expressive appellation of bounty-jumpers. They might more properly be termed traitors and public plunderers, and the Major-General Commanding, in approving the sentence of death pronounced by the Court, discharges it his duty to the Army and the Country to announce, that, in all such cases, he will cause the punishment awarded, to a crime subversive of every principle of moral and political obligation, to be executed with the utmost inflexibility and promptness." And see remarks, to a similar effect, of the same commander, in G. O. 28, Dept. of the East, 1864; also of Downing *alias* Ball, cited under "Fiftieth Article," *post*.

Forfeiture of pay and allowances. By pars. 2458,² Army Regulations, it is declared in substance that deserters shall forfeit all pay and allowances due them at the time of their desertion, as well as all accruing during the period of their authorized absence.³ This is a forfeiture quite other than that imposed as a punishment by court-martial, resulting simply by operation of law from the violation of the contract of enlistment or obligation of service.⁴ It is not essential for taking effect that there should have been any conviction of the offender;⁵ but as a conviction is the most satisfactory mode of ascertaining the fact of desertion, this forfeiture, (except where the deserter is restored to duty without trial under art. 218 of the Regulations,) is rarely enforced in the absence of a conviction.⁶ It includes, with the pay proper, all the perquisites and emoluments due the deserting soldier or officer,⁷ except so far as may accrue *after* the interval specified in the Regulations. It is to say after the return of the party from desertion and while he is awaiting trial and the action on his case of the proper military authority. It is in general only the amounts due for the period indicated that are actually affected by the penalty of forfeiture commonly contained in the *sentence*.⁸

Besides the pay forfeited under the Regulations above mentioned, a deserter, remaining in the service, forfeits also his "regular pay;" the same being, by the terms of Sec. 1281, Rev. St.

1. As amended by G. O. 68 of 1883. This paragraph includes deserters without authority, whether or not deserters.

2. Amended by G. O. 52 of 1884.

3. A corresponding forfeiture of wages is incurred by deserting seamen at maritime law. Curtis, Rights and Duties of Merchant Seamen, 130, 303, 305, 306.

4. DIGEST, 225, 270, 364. And see U. S. v. Landers, 92 U. S. 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

5. See authorities cited in last note.

6. DIGEST, 225. It cannot of course be enforced if the accused is acquitted; nor, upon a conviction, if the finding is *disapproved* by competent authority. DIGEST, 225, 436. And see XIII Opins. At. Gen. 459; Circ. 12 of 1883; Do. 2 of 1885.

7. *Bounty* has been held to be included in the term "allowance." U. S. v. Landers, *ante*; XIII Opins. At. Gen., 188. But the finding would not affect amounts already paid to the party, and in his possession or held in trust for his benefit by the military authorities. DIGEST, 369; XIII Opins. At. Gen., 210, 257.

8. DIGEST, 365. And see U. S. v. Landers, *ante*.

: only in case the soldier serves "honestly and faithfully" to date of his discharge.

Forfeiture of savings. The Act of May 15, 1872, incorporated in Sec. 1305 of the Revised Statutes, in providing for the deposit, by soldiers, of their savings with the Pay department of army, to be returned with interest upon discharge, declares that amount deposited "*shall not be liable to forfeiture by sentence court-martial, but shall be forfeited by desertion.*" In the opinion of the author, this forfeiture takes effect, by operation of law, on ascertainment of the fact of desertion, similarly as does the forfeiture last considered; a conviction being the preferable, though not an essential, form of such ascertainment.

The obligation to make good the time lost to the United States. This liability forms the subject, in part, of the succeeding Article, (Art. 48,) and will be reserved for consideration thereafter.

The loss of citizenship and disqualification for office.

Section 21 of the Act of March 3, 1865, c. 79,¹ in providing that persons then occupying the status of deserters from the military or naval service, who should not return to the service within sixty days from a specified date, should, "*in addition to the other law-penalties of the crime of desertion, be deemed and taken to have voluntarily relinquished and forfeited their rights of citizenship and their rights to become citizens, and * * * be forever incapable of holding any office of trust or profit under the United States,*"—succeeded to add the general provision that "*all persons who shall hereafter desert the military or naval service * * * shall be liable to the penalties of this section.*" This general enactment was subsequently incorporated in the Revised Statutes as Sec. 8,² and continues to be law.

This statute has been construed by the courts of several of the States, and it has invariably been held that the forfeiture declared was a penal consequence of desertion, and could be in-

Compare the provision of the Act of April 14, 1802, s. 4, by which persons "convicted of having joined the army of Great Britain during late war" are rendered ineligible to citizenship.

It had meanwhile been recognized as a continuing general provision in an enactment of July 19, 1867, excepting certain persons from its operation. (Sec. 1997, Rev. Sts.)

curred only upon a *conviction* of 1 alone has jurisdiction of the sam therefore been ruled that, to estab an incapacity resulting from the the rights of citizenship,—as for ercise the right of suffrage,—it is of his conviction, (*i. e.* of a convi duced and proved.¹

The penalties prescribed by the specifically included in the *sente* are not so included in practice.

It has been held by the Attorne is empowered to “*pardon* a deserte that is to say that a pardon will op attaching as continuing penalties 1

It may be added in regard to th in its terms, it was manifestly int the draft and of preventing deser and public danger. It was thus in general clause was apparently ad as might remain of the then exis however, to such period, it has be eration. In a normal condition of tional character, by which deserte punishment,⁴ is incongruous and in our military law is no longer de

Ineligibility to reappointm
vised Statutes, “*the President is a*
of the army, for desertion, any offic

1. See *Huber v. Reily*, 53 Pa. St. N. Y. 420, (also 58 Barb. 152 and 5 Maine, 148; *Holt v. Holt*, 59 Id. 464; And compare *Kurtz v. Moffitt & Fiel* 1885, (GRAY J.) Such a conviction w vote under the laws of a *State*, unless voter in the State shall be a citizen of have in fact adopted the penalty in que *v. Matthewson*, *State v. Symonds*.

2. See in this connection *State v. I* s. XIV Opins., 124.

4. Compare *McCafferty v. Guyer*, 5

*months without leave," and it is added—"and no officer so dropped shall be eligible for reappointment."*¹

Ineligibility for re-enlistment. Sec. 1116, Rev. Sts., in which it is declared that deserters shall not be eligible for enlistment, has already been considered in treating of the Third Article.

Qualified Ineligibility to admission to the Soldiers' Home. By Sec. 4822, Rev. Sts., it is provided that no one "who has been a deserter" shall be received into this Institution, "without such evidence of subsequent service, good conduct, and reformation of character, as is satisfactory to the Commissioners."

Incapacity to receive a bounty-land warrant. In Sec. 18, Rev. Sts., it is provided that—“*No person who has been in military service of the United States shall, in any case, receive bounty-land warrant, if it appears by the muster-rolls of his regiment or corps that he deserted or was dishonorably discharged from vice.*”

Reward for Arrest of Deserters. By par. 214, Army Regulations, a "*reward of thirty dollars*" is declared to be payable on the arrest and delivery of a deserter to a proper officer as herein further specified.

The arrest of a deserter will in general properly be made by a military officer, soldier or employee.² He will act by virtue of military authority and orders, and will not, of course, require *warrant*.³ The right, however, to arrest a deserter will not au-

1. As to this provision, see under "Ninety-Ninth Article," *post*.

2. "A police officer of a State, or a private citizen, has no authority such, without any warrant or military order, to arrest and detain a deserter from the Army of the United States." Kurtz v. Moffitt & Co., U. S. Supreme Court, Nov. 23, 1885, (GRAY, J.) overruling the decision of the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia, Division of the Superior Ct., San Francisco, published in G. O. 7, Div. of the Pacific, June 4, 1885.

The Secretary of War, referring, in his Annual Report, of December, 1855, to the decision of the Supreme Court in this case, observes—"I am called upon to suggest that a statute be enacted applying the common law rule to deserters, authorizing their arrest, as in cases of felony, by private citizens or police officers for the purpose of surrendering them to the proper authorities for trial."

3. See *Hutchings v. Van Bokkelen*, 34 Maine, 126; *Hickey v. Huse*, Id. 493. Compare the provision of the British Army Act, 154.

That a deserter arrested at a place not conveniently near a military station may be temporarily confined in the local jail, is illustrated in

thorize the arresting party to violate the vested rights of third persons. Thus it will not authorize forcing an entrance into a private house against the consent of the occupant, for the purpose of apprehending a deserter concealed therein.¹ In such a case the arrest may sometimes be effected by taking out a warrant against the occupant for the offence of harboring a deserter, made punishable by Sec. 5455, Rev. Sts.

The reward for the arrest of deserters has, in practice, been paid not only to non-commissioned officers and private soldiers,² but also to peace officers and other civilians.³ Legally, however, it can only be paid to one legally authorized to make such an arrest. In view of the provision of Sec. 1269, Rev. Sts., the reward cannot legally be paid to a commissioned *officer* of the army.

If a reward has been paid before the alleged deserter is brought to trial, and upon trial he is *convicted*, the amount of the reward is stopped against his pay:⁴ such stoppage, however, cannot be made where he is acquitted,⁵ nor where he is found guilty of the minor offence of absence without leave.⁶ Nor, though he be convicted, can the stoppage be made, if such conviction is *disap-*

Hutchings v. Van Bokkelen, ante. That the officer or person arresting a deserter is not authorized to seize private property belonging to him, see *Clark v. Cummins*, 47 Ills. 372.

1. *Clay v. U. S., Devereux*, (Ct. of Cl.,) 25. The ruling, *contra*, announced in Circ. 6 of July 10, 1885, is believed to have been inadvertently approved and published.

2. See Circ. 8 of 1883.

3. Circ. 7 of 1885.

4. Par. 215, Army Regulations; G. O. 137 of 1884.

5. DIGEST, 227. This principle is now recognized in par. 216, A. R.

6. The ruling of the Judge Advocate General to this effect, (DIGEST, 227-8,) was concurred in by the Attorney General, XVI Opins., 474. And, to a similar effect, see Circ., Dept. of Va., March 31, 1870, where the stoppage, the conviction having been of absence without leave *only*, was declared by the General of the Army to be "unlawful," and it was added—"If this amount has been deducted from the soldier's pay, he should be re-mustered therefor on the next pay roll of the company." See also Circ., Dept. of the Mo., June 9, 1871. In G. O. 48, 53, Dept. of the Mo., 1866; Do. 23, Dept. of La., 1868, a forfeiture of the thirty dollars paid as reward, imposed by the court as a penalty in the sentence of a soldier convicted only of the lesser offence, was disapproved or remitted. And see the recent Circ. 6 of 1883. It need hardly be remarked that the liability for the amount of the reward is not *punishment*, nor properly included in the sentence. DIGEST, 227.

ved by the competent reviewing authority, and thus nullified
aw.¹

FORTY-EIGHTH ARTICLE.

Previous Legislation. This provision first appears as an article of war in the code of 1874. Previously it had existed in a section of the successive Acts of May 30, 1796, c. 39, March 1802, c. 9, January 11, 1812, c. 14, and January 29, 1813, c. 16. The only material change that need be remarked in its language is that the words—"in addition to the penalties mentioned in the rules and articles of war," formerly inserted after the word "shall" in the second line, have been omitted in the present version, as apparently no longer necessary.

The Subjects of the Article. The Article comprises two distinct subjects:—1. The liability of the deserter to complete, "make good," the term of his contract; 2. The amenability of the deserter to trial after the period for which he enlisted has expired.

1. The Liability of the Deserter to Complete his Contract—When it takes effect. That this liability becomes operative only upon a *conviction* of the deserter may now be considered as settled. The indication expressed in the earlier forms of the statute—"in addition to the penalties," &c., though now omitted, is, it is believed, to be considered as still understood; the same construction being accordingly given to the Article as given to the provision, in which is expressed a similar indication,² of the statute depriving deserters of the right of citizenship, which has been uniformly interpreted as taking effect only upon a conviction by court-martial.³ A similar view has apparently been adopted by the Attorney General, who, in treating of the penalties incurred by deserters, holds of the provision in relation of Art. 48 that it "is to be construed along with the other penal provisions relating to the offence of desertion, all of

¹ DIGEST, 227, 436. Otherwise if he be restored to duty without trial. Circ. 4 of 1884.

² By the words—"in addition to the other lawful penalties of the offence of desertion." Act of March 3, 1865, c. 79, s. 21.

³ See Huber v. Reily, 53 Pa. St. 112, and other authorities to the same effect cited under the "Forty-Seventh Article."

which contemplate a trial and conviction before the infliction of the penalty. * * * It comes into play only after conviction."¹ A similar understanding of the law is conveyed by par. 220^a of the present Army Regulations, which directs that enlisted men absenting themselves without authority "shall, *upon conviction by court-martial*, make good the time lost by such absence."³

The conviction, to authorize the enforcement of the liability, must of course be duly *approved*. If *disapproved*, all liability in respect of the alleged desertion is put an end to, in the manner as if there had been an acquittal by the court.⁴

Not to be expressed in the sentence. Though once considered otherwise,⁵ it is clear that the liability in question, arising as it does by operation of law upon conviction, is quite independent of the *punishment* that may be adjudged by the court and need not therefore be included in the sentence.⁶ In practice it is now most rarely thus expressed. On the other hand, whatever be the terms of the sentence, it cannot affect the attachment of the liability.⁷ Any reference to it in the sentence is a mere surplusage.

Period of time to be made good. This period is that intervening between the day on which the unauthorized absence commenced and that of the arrest, return, or surrender of the soldier. Time passed by him in arrest or confinement

1. XV Opins. At. Gen., 162.

2. Amended by G. O. 68 of 1883.

3. It may well be questioned whether this regulation, in extending the penalty to a class other than that specified in the statute—deserters, does not assume to legislate and is not therefore without legal sanction.

That the penalty cannot be enforced against soldiers who have been absent without leave, by reason of having been confined, (when not absented without leave,) by the civil authorities—see Circ. 5 of 1883.

4. DIGEST, 22; XIII Opins. At. Gen., 459.

5. See G. O. 26, 45, of 1843.

6. DIGEST, 22; G. C. M. O. 329 of 1864; G. O. 94, Dept. of the Militia, 1867; Do. 23, Dept. of the Lakes, 1873; G. C. M. O. 74, Dept. of the East, 1873.

7. Thus where a deserter was sentenced to imprisonment "for the balance of his term," his liability to make good the time lost was not to be affected, the word "term" evidently referring to the period of his enlistment as computed from its initiation. DIGEST, 22.

ment or in hospital, while awaiting his trial or the disposition of his case by the reviewing authority, cannot be computed as a part of such period;¹ nor can time passed in confinement (without discharge) under his sentence be credited to him thereon, such time being not service but punishment.² So, the entirety of the period cannot be affected by the fact that pending his confinement under the sentence, the term of his enlistment, (dating from its inception,) may have expired.³

The liability dissolved by discharge. Where, however, the deserter is sentenced to be dishonorably discharged, and has been duly discharged accordingly, he is finally separated from the military service under his enlistment and cannot legally be remanded to the same to make good the time of his absence. And herein is the reason why this liability is so rarely enforced in practice, *viz.* because deserters, upon conviction, are now almost invariably sentenced to be dishonorably discharged prior to confinement.

So, where a deserter, in the absence of a trial and sentence, or pending the execution of a sentence which did not impose discharge, is discharged as an executive act under Art. 4, he cannot be subjected to the liability in question, the Government having, by thus discharging him, *waived* the enforcement of the same.⁴

Status of soldier when making good his time. It is declared by par. 217, Army Regulations, that a deserter, when returned to the proper command to make good the time due by him to the United States, "will be considered as again in service." While thus serving he will occupy in his military relations the same status as that of any soldier in good standing, except in so far as his rights to pay or allowances may have been forfeited by a forfeiture of pay, &c., "to become due," contained in his sentence. Otherwise he is to be paid, subsisted, &c., as well as treated in general, like any other soldier. He is not in arrest, and is not to be discriminated against because of having

1. DIGEST, 22.

2. DIGEST, 22.

3. DIGEST, 22-3.

4. The law on this subject is recognized in par. 217, Army Regulations, which declares that deserters shall make good time lost, &c., unless discharged by competent authority."

been a deserter. His discharge at the end of his service an honorable one in law, though it may properly state the circumstances under which it is given.

2. The Amenability of the Deserter to Trial : period for which he enlisted has expired. The in its second clause, in effect provides that a deserter, though arrested till after his term of enlistment has expired, is amenable to trial and punishment in the same manner and to the same extent as if apprehended before its expiration. Such amenability may of course be terminated by a *discharge* given by competent authority,¹ and, as indicated in a previous Chapter, is subject to the limitation as to the initiation of prosecution joined by the 103d Article.

FORTY-NINTH ARTICLE.

Origin of the Provision. This statute first appeared in the Article of war in the present revised code of 1874, having previously formed the second section of the Act of Aug. 5, 1862, § 54. It is understood to have originated in the fact that certain officers of the army, intending to join the Southern confederacy, had, prior to the date of the Act, tendered their resignations without waiting for their acceptance, and had then departed for their respective States.

The Article Declaratory of the Existing Law. The Article is simply a definition of desertion as illustrated by particular classes of cases. An officer of the army by merely resigning his commission modifies in no manner his amenability to military law and jurisdiction. This remains unchanged whether he has been officially notified of the acceptance of the resignation tendered.³ If prior to such notification he assumes to re-enter the service, he is a deserter under the military common law, unless a special statute declaring him such being required. The 49th Article merely designates a certain class of officers as deserters.

1. DIGEST, 23.

2. See Chapter XVI.

3. DIGEST, 430. And see *Barger v. U. S.*, 6 Ct. Cl. 35; also *MacKinnon's case* cited in next note.

thout it, would still be amenable to justice as such under the general provision of Art. 47.

The Article may further be viewed as declaratory, by implication, of a principle of the law governing *resignations*, viz. that when an officer has in fact been duly notified of the acceptance of a resignation tendered to take effect immediately or on a certain day, he is entitled at once or on that date to quit his post and duties, and separate himself, as a civilian, altogether from the military service; and, moreover, that thereafter no reconsideration or attempted withdrawal of the acceptance by the authorities can remit him to his former status, render him amenable to military law, or be otherwise than wholly futile.¹

FIFTIETH ARTICLE.

The Subjects of the Article. This Article, which dates from the code of 1776, relates to two different matters:—1. The act of re-enlisting without a regular discharge; 2. The duty and liability of officers in regard to persons so re-enlisting.

Re-enlisting without a Regular Discharge. Art. 4, as has been seen, prescribes in what manner and form a soldier shall be discharged, and the present Article in effect declares that a soldier who assumes to discharge *himself* from his proper regiment, &c., and enlist in another, does so at the peril of being treated as a deserter.² It is to be construed, however, not as creating an offence distinct from the desertion made punishable by Art. 47, but as indicating a specific form of such offence, or rather as declaring that the act of re-enlisting under the circumstances described shall constitute *proof of desertion* on the part of the soldier.³ The object of the provision evidently was to preclude the notion that a soldier could be relieved from liability as deserter because, on abandoning his regiment, he proceeded to enter the service in another, or, in other words, that he could

¹ DIGEST, 430; *Mimmack v. U. S.*, reported in 10 Ct. Cl. 584, 97 U. S. 26, XII Opins. At. Gen. 555, and XIV Id. 262.

² It has been noticed by the Judge Advocate General, (DIGEST, 24,) that this Article does not apply to a case of a naval *seaman* or *marine* enlisting in the army without a discharge from his former service.

³ See DIGEST, 23-4; G. C. M. O. 129, Dept. of the Mo., 1872; Do. Id., 1874; Do. 4, Id., 1883.

be excused from repudiating his pending contract by substituting another in its place.¹

Punishment. The provision, in regard to punishment under Art. 47 applies of course to the form of desertion specified in *this* Article, which is therefore punishable with death in time of war,² and with any lesser penalty or penalties in time of peace. While *any* re-enlistment in violation of the Article is a specific fraud upon the United States, the offence will be aggravated if the punishment properly made more severe where the person re-enlisting, uses an assumed name, makes false statement, obtains a false or forged discharge, &c., with deliberate intent to deceive the military authorities.³

Duty and Liability of Officers under the Article. The object of the second provision of the Article was, according to Samuel,⁴ "to counteract the interest," which officers might sometimes have, to fill up with improper persons the quotas of organizations, with a view to obtaining the increased rank and other advantage attaching to the command of a certain number of men. A further purpose of the provision, in our law, would seem to be to deter officers from becoming, through connivance or indifference, practically accessories to desertion,⁵ and thus to render more certain the detection and punishment of the deserters themselves.

The term "*receive and entertain*" would include not only harboring or relieving of the class of deserters specified, or

1. Samuel, 330.

2. The death sentence was on several occasions during the late war adjudged upon a conviction of desertion under this article. See cases in G. O. 30, 35, of 1864; G. O. 83, Dept. of Washington, 1864.

3. Especially where the purpose is to secure bounty money or other emolument. In the case of Downing *alias* Ball, published in G. O. 83, Dept. of Washington, 1864, the accused, a "bounty-jumper," was convicted of seventeen separate re-enlistments, as a substitute, entered into during a period of less than a year, and in six different States, and upon which he was found to have received in all nearly eight thousand dollars in bounties. The sentence of death was approved and executed in this case.

4. Page 332. And see O'Brien, 98. Hough, (p. 163,) appears to be of opinion that *recruiting* officers are mainly intended by the Article. Its terms however are general and equally applicable to all officers.

5. See O'Brien, 98.

sting them to evade justice,¹ but the admitting of them to the command, or recognizing and treating them, as soldiers in good standing.² In a charge against an officer under this Article, the *deserter*, or that he acted "knowingly," must be expressly alleged and proved.

The purpose, observes Hough,³ of requiring the deserter to be immediately confined is to prevent the escape which he would be likely to attempt upon perceiving himself to be the object of suspicion. Such confinement would also properly be resorted to with a view of promptly bringing him to trial. The term "immediately," as applied especially to the giving of "notice," is to be construed as meaning with all reasonable dispatch.⁴

The severe and mandatory *punishment* of cashiering, prescribed in this part of the Article, is evidently an expression of the uniform policy of the law to visit with extreme penalties the entire class of acts which either involve, induce, or encourage desertion.⁵

FIFTY-FIRST ARTICLE.

The Offences Contemplated. This Article, which dates in the code of 1775,⁶ is viewed as making punishable two distinct acts—that of counselling the commission of the crime of desertion, and that of inducing, by persuasion, such crime to be committed.⁷

In a case in G. O. 79, Army of the Potomac, 1862, a captain was convicted of a violation of this Article in that he "did wilfully harbor and conceal" a deserter from another regiment, and did "neglect and refuse to surrender him on the demand of" his company commander.

See cases in G. O. 49, Dept. of Washington, 1864; Do. 1, Dept. of Va., 1864.

Page 164.

See Samuel, 332; O'Brien, 99.

Compare Sec. 5455, Rev. Sts., which makes punishable by fine or imprisonment, to be imposed by a U. S. court, any person who shall entice, lure, or assist a soldier to desert, or knowingly harbor, protect, conceal, or refuse to give up, a deserter.

Neither this code nor that of 1776 made these offences capitally punishable.

"There is this difference between having *advised* and having *permitted* to desert, that the one is an advice to another to do an act, which he may or may not consent to commit; the other a persuasion by which the act is *done*." Hough, 172. *Contra*, Samuel, (p. 339,) who, usually, is repeated by O'Brien, (p. 99,) views the word "*persuades*"

Advising to Desert. The offence is complete with giving of the advice with serious intent.¹ Whether the act was induced by the advice given is quite immaterial.

Persuading to Desert. But to persuade a person is to cause him to do so by the influence employed.² The act of persuading is not therefore complete unless the party persuaded actually proceeds to consummate the crime. Persuading to desert is thus in the nature of the offence of an accessory before the fact to a felony. The persuasion may be by solicitation, promise of reward, or other form of inducement bearing for the purpose.³

In perhaps a majority of the cases, (which however numerous,) this offence has been committed by one who contemplated desertion, and who did in fact desert, according to the purpose of the party persuaded.⁴

A peculiarly aggravated form of the offence would be presented by a case where an officer enticed men to desert from the service in order that he might enlist them in his own company.

To constitute the offence it is not essential that the officer should have been alone in the persuasion. If he is clearly shown to have promoted the result, to have been instrumental with other persons or agencies in bringing it about, he may equally be convicted as if he had been the sole cause.⁶ So it is not necessary

as substantially synonymous with "advises," and so regards the offence as contemplating but a single offence. The construction, however, of the Article by Hough is more natural and reasonable, and is supported by the etymology of the word *persuade*. It is further supported by the ruling in the parallel case of *Respublica v. Roberts*, 1 Dallas, 39, where the court held that the term "persuade to enlist" in a statute, meant to induce with success—induce to actually enlist; citing *Regina v. Bland*, 1 Ld. Raym. 889. And see DIGEST, 24, and the G. O. cited *post*.

1. It has been held by the Judge Advocate General, (DIGEST, 24,) that a mere "declaration made by one soldier to another of a will to desert with him in case he should decide to desert, was not an *advising* to desert in the sense of this Article."

2. See note *ante*.

3. See Samuel, 343; Hough, 172; O'Brien, 99.

4. Such cases occur in G. O. 23, Dept. of the Mo., 1863; G. O. 11, 152, Id., 1868.

5. See this *charged*—the officer was acquitted—in G. O. 1, W. Va., 1864.

6. Compare case of *Grant v. Gould*, as commented upon in

the persuasion should have been personal: if employed, for example, by an officer, through a non-commissioned officer or soldier, it will be within the Article.¹

A desertion persuaded to be committed may be either of the ordinary form or that particularized in Art. 50. The latter was first charged in the well-known English case of Sergeant

punishment. This being discretionary, a court will ordinarily be inclined to visit the latter form of offence more severely than the former; the fact that the desertion was actually induced tends to indicate a more persistent and criminal purpose than would naturally be inferred where its commission, though advised, was not brought about. The offence charged should also be more severely punished in proportion to the rank and position of the offender. For one to advise or persuade desertion of a higher rank or office gives a peculiar force and significance to his words and acts, and from whom a good example and a more efficient enforcement of discipline are properly to be expected, is to commit a much graver dereliction than a similar offence committed by one of the same military grade with the person intended to be influenced.² In any case, the persuader, if of a higher rank, will be deserving of a severer punishment than the party persuaded.

XXI. THE FIFTY-SECOND AND FIFTY-THIRD ARTICLES.

PUNISHMENT AND BEHAVIOUR AT RELIGIOUS SERVICES—PROFANITY.]

ART. 52. *It is earnestly recommended to all officers and soldiers to attend divine service. Any officer who behaves indecently or irreverently at any place of divine worship shall be brought*

And see the cases in G. C. M. O. 152, Dept. of the Mo., 1868, Corporal, an artificer, and a private of the same company, who were charged each with persuading the two others to desert; the two being convicted.

Such was the form of the offence in a case in G. O. 40, Dept. of War, 1865.

Grant v. Gould, 2 H. Bl. 69.

In the case, above cited, in G. O. 23, Dept. of the Mo.

before a general court-martial, there to be publicly and severally reprimanded by the president thereof. Any soldier who so offends shall, for his first offence, forfeit one sixth of a dollar; for a further offence he shall forfeit a like sum, and shall be confined twenty-four hours. The money so forfeited shall be deducted from his next pay, and shall be applied, by the captain or senior officer of his troop, battery, or company, to the use of the sick soldiers of the same.

"ART. 53. Any officer who uses any profane oath or execration shall, for each offence, forfeit and pay one dollar. Any soldier who so offends shall incur the penalties provided in the preceding articles and all moneys forfeited for such offences shall be applied as then provided."

FIFTY-SECOND ARTICLE.

Origin. The originals of this and the succeeding Article Arts. 2 and 3 of 1775—may be traced to British articles of a very early date; corresponding provisions being found in the "Law and Ordinances of Warre" for the royal army, of 1639,¹ in the Articles for the Scottish army, of 1644,² and in Art. I of the Code of James II.³

The Recommendation. The Article, in its first clause, differs from the corresponding British article,⁴ from which it was directly derived and which *requires* attendance at divine worship in *recommending* only such attendance;⁵ a difference doubtless growing out of the provision in our Constitution,⁶ by which Congress is forbidden to make any "law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."⁷ A statute

death penalty, (commuted by the reviewing authority to imprisonment) was adjudged a corporal convicted of having persuaded a private to desert with him.

1. 1 Clode, M. F., 429.

2. Papon & Col., 16.

3. See Appendix. And compare Arts. 5 to 16 of Gustavus Adolphus

4. Art. 1, Sec. 1, of 1765. See Appendix.

5. Similarly "it is commended," in G. O. 7, Army of the Potomac, 1861, "to commanding officers that the men shall attend divine service after the customary Sunday morning inspection."

6. Art. 1 of the Amendments.

7. A pointed cotemporary exposition or illustration of this provision of the Constitution is found in the declaration inserted in the Treaty

making it obligatory upon officers or soldiers to attend religious services on Sunday (or other day) would be of doubtful constitutionality as opposed to the spirit if not to the letter of the organic law. The Article, therefore, while favoring such attendance, has well left it optional with officers and soldiers whether they will or not be present at any such services.

The Penal Provision. The awkward and exceptional procedure prescribed by this Article would be sufficient to preclude, at this date, a resort to it for the disposition of offenders.¹ For the punishment indeed of an offence such as indicated, a prosecution under Art. 62 or 61, would in general be found entirely adequate and effectual. The Article is thus practically as unnecessary as it is clumsy and antiquated, and having now no material value or significance, might well be dropped from the code.*

FIFTY-THIRD ARTICLE.

Its Former Significance. The enforcement of this Article, (which is derived from provisions of the Codes of Charles I and James II,²) was, at an early period of our law, much insisted upon. Thus, in a Resolution of December, 1776,⁴ recommending to the States the appointing of a day of "fasting and humiliation," it is added:—"The Congress do also, in the most earnest manner, recommend to all the members of the United States, and particularly the officers civil and military under them, the exercise of repentance and reformation; and further require of them the strict observation of the Articles of war, and particularly that part of the said Articles which forbids profane swearing," &c. Again, in February, 1777,—“It being,” (to quote from the Jour-

with Tripoli of 1796-7, (VIII Stats. at Large, 155,) and still in operation, (see Public Treaties, 756,) that—"the Government of the United States of America is not in any sense founded on the Christian religion," and "has in itself no character of enmity against the laws, religion or tranquillity of Mussulmen."

1. As to the inconvenience of this procedure, see Hough, 56; Id., (P.) 28; McNaghten, 84; O'Brien, 58.

2. McNaghten, (writing in 1828,) refers, (p. 84,) to the corresponding provision of the British Articles as "a mere dead letter."

3. See Appendix. And compare Arts. 2, 3 and 4, of Gustavus Adolphus.

4. 1 Jour. Cong., 577.

nals,¹⁾ represented to Congress that profaneness in general, and particularly cursing and swearing, shamefully prevail in the army of the United States," it is "Resolved that General Washington be informed of this, and that he be requested to take the proper measures, in concert with his general officers, for reforming this abuse." And, in a subsequent Resolution of October 1778,² officers of the army are "strictly enjoined" to see, among other things, "that the good and wholesome rules provided for the discountenancing of profaneness * * * are duly and punctually observed."

Present Unimportance. The extent, however, of the use of profane language in the army has long ceased to be regarded as a matter of public concern. The vehement and copious profanity of an earlier period is indeed now rarely indulged in. In practice, such language, where so employed as to amount to *disrespect* or a *disorder*, is made the subject of a charge under Article 62d or other appropriate Article, but otherwise does not in general receive official notice. The 53d Article is never enforced and is practically obsolete: its provisions need not therefore be further considered.

XXII. THE FIFTY-FOURTH, FIFTY-FIFTH, FIFTY-SIXTH AND FIFTY-SEVENTH ARTICLES.

[PROTECTION TO CITIZENS AND THEIR PROPERTY, &c.]

"ART. 54. *Every officer commanding in quarters, garrison, on the march, shall keep good order, and, to the utmost of his power, redress all abuses or disorders which may be committed by any officer or soldier under his command; and if, upon complaint made to him of officers or soldiers beating or otherwise ill-treating a person, disturbing fairs or markets, or committing any kind of riot to the disquieting of the citizens of the United States, he refuses or omits to see justice done to the offender, and reparation made to the party injured, so far as part of the offender's pay shall go toward such reparation, he shall be dismissed from the service, or otherwise punished, as a court-martial may direct.*

1. 2 Jour. Cong., 51.

2. 3 Jour. Cong., 85.

"ART. 55. *All officers and soldiers are to behave themselves orderly in quarters and on the march; and whoever commits any waste or spoil, either in walks or trees, parks, warrens, fish-ponds, houses, gardens, grain-fields, inclosures, or meadows, or maliciously destroys any property whatsoever belonging to inhabitants of the United States, (unless by order of a general officer commanding a separate army in the field,) shall, besides such penalties as he may be liable to by law, be punished as a court-martial may direct.*

"ART 56. *Any officer or soldier who does violence to any person bringing provisions or other necessities to the camp, garrison, or quarters of the forces of the United States in foreign parts, shall suffer death, or such other punishment as a court-martial may direct.*

"ART. 57. *Whosoever, belonging to the armies of the United States in foreign parts, or at any place within the United States or their Territories during rebellion against the supreme authority of the United States, forces a safeguard, shall suffer death.*"

FIFTY-FOURTH ARTICLE.

Its Object. This statute, which, taken from a previous British article, dates in our law from 1775, was evidently designed to protect civilians¹ from disorderly and riotous² acts on the part of the military, and, while providing for the punishment of the latter, to secure to the former an indemnification for such injuries as they may have suffered.

Construction. The Article, however, is, as a remedial provision, incomplete and unsatisfactory, especially in that (1) it leaves in doubt what classes of injuries are had in view—whether injuries to the person only, or injuries to property as well as person; and (2) fails to indicate in what manner and by what instrumentality the reparation for such injuries is to be effectuated.

As to the injuries contemplated, the language of the Article would rather imply that it was bodily assault only that was in-

1. That the Article contemplates only injuries done to this class, see Samuel, 465; O'Brien, 117; DIGEST, 25. Our Article is in effect the corresponding provision of the British code,—which applied only to cases of injury done to landlords or other persons with whom soldiers were billeted,—extended to citizens in general.

2. The expression "any kind of riot," employed in the Article, may be regarded as of more general import than the technical legal term *riot*.

tended. But as the species of disorderly conduct specified are such as naturally to result in damage to property, such damage, at least when incidental to violence against the person or the outgrowth of a breach of the peace, might well be regarded as within the spirit of the Article. There was support therefore for the practice which grew up during the recent war, and was sanctioned later by the War Department in the General Order presently to be cited, of summarily mulcting soldiers by stoppage of their pay, under the present Article, for damage done civilians in their *property*, (in violation of Art. 55 or otherwise;) nor was this damage always the accompaniment of a personal assault or of a riotous outbreak. A liberal construction thus came to be given in practice to the Article in the particular in question, and, though in some instances this practice was extended to cases quite beyond the proper scope of the statute,¹ a prompt justice, within the equity of its provisions and suited to the exigencies of the times, was in most cases administered.

As to the modus operandi of the reparation, the Article does not indicate whether the appropriation of pay is to be made directly by the order of the commander himself or through the instrumentality of a court-martial. Early in the late war, however, the construction was put upon it by the Judge Advocate General² that it *authorized* the making of the reparation through the summary action and order of the military commander, independently of any proceedings before a court-martial, and this view of the law was in general concurred in by department commanders.³

The General Order of 1868—Procedure. The interpretation thus given was in substance adopted, and the prevailing

1. As where it was applied to the reimbursement of a party for money or property *stolen* from him by a soldier, of which cases are found in G. O. 59, Dept. of Washington, 1866; Do. 6, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1867. That the article cannot legally be resorted to for the relief of persons whose property has been the subject of *larceny* or *embezzlement*, or to indemnify the United States for *public* property appropriated or damaged—see DIGEST, 26.

2. DIGEST, 25.

3. See G. O. 123, Dept. of the Gulf, 1864; Do. 74, Dept. of Ark., 1865; Do. 48, 55, Dept. of La., 1866; Do. 59, Dept. of Washington, 1866; Do. 6, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1867. *Contra*, O'Brien, 117, following Samuel, 464.

practice formulated, in G. O. 35, of the War Department, of 1868, as follows:—"Under the 32d, (now 54th,) of the Rules and Articles of War, it is made the duty of commanding officers to see reparation made to the party or parties injured, from the pay of soldiers who are guilty of abuses or disorders committed against citizens. Upon proper representation by any citizen of wanton injury to his person or property, accompanied by satisfactory proof, the commanding officer of the troops will cause the damage to be assessed by a board of officers, the amount stopped against the pay of the offenders, and reparation made to the injured party. This proceeding will be independent of any trial or sentence by court-martial for the criminal offence."

Under the Article, as illustrated and supplemented by this Order, the procedure is initiated by a "complaint made" by the injured party¹ to the commander of the regiment, post, &c. The commander may be directed by a superior—as by a department commander, in passing upon the proceedings of a court-martial previously ordered for the trial of the offender, or otherwise—to entertain the complaint, see to the matter of reparation, &c.;² or he may himself take action in the first instance, according to circumstances. The complaint, which will properly be expressed in writing, should set forth the details of the injury, and be sustained by evidence showing it to be meritorious and well-founded; and this evidence may also properly be required to be exhibited in the form of affidavits or written statements. The commander, if he deems it expedient, may examine the witnesses in person, or cause them to be examined and their testimony to be taken down by an officer of his staff or command. But the commander cannot properly himself initiate the investigation; *i. e.* cannot dispense with complaint or testimony from the aggrieved party and proceed *sua sponte*.

"Proper representation" having been made and "satisfactory proof" furnished, the commander will convene a "board" for the assessing of the damage. This, in a case of injury to *property*,

1. It is not *essential* that the injured party personally make the complaint, as it may be made by a parent in behalf of a minor child, (G. O. 48, 55, Dept. of La., 1866,) by a police officer, (G. O. 161, Dept. of Washington, 1865,) or an attorney.

2. See instances in G. O. 123, Dept. of the Gulf, 1864; Do. 59, Dept. of Washington, 1866; Do. 48, 55, Dept. of La., 1866; Do. 6, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1867.

will be such amount as may justly and reasonably be required to make good the loss. In a case of injury to the *person*, the amount shall ordinarily be a sum sufficient to reimburse the party for the expenses incurred for medical or surgical attendance and the like.¹ The party cannot be awarded punitive damages if he claims them, he must be referred to the civil court. To assist it in its assessment, the board may avail itself of the services of many of experts or other persons cognizant of values, &c.

The conclusion of the board being approved by the commanding officer, he will, by the proper order, direct the amount to be stopped out of the pay of the offender on the muster and pay rolls of the company, or mand, or otherwise charged against his pay account, until the amount is collected in full, and the amount or amounts, as collected, to be paid over, by the paymaster, company commander, or other duly authorized officer, to the injured party or some duly authorized person on his behalf.

The Article specifies that the reparation shall be made out of the offender's pay, "as far as *part* of the offender's pay shall go toward" it. If the amount assessed is greater than the pay then due or to become due at the next pay day, a portion only of such pay should properly be stopped against and deducted from the offender's pay, leaving the remaining portion to be similarly stopped against his future payment or payments.

Where it appears that several persons were concerned in the disorder, the commander will divide the amount assessed among the different parties in equal sums or in such proportions as he may deem just. In some exceptional cases of destruction of private property participated in by members of a company or other bodies of troops on the march, where it has not been practicable to distinguish certain individuals as liable, a stoppage has been ordered, under this Article, against the entire command.²

As indicated in the Article, and specified in the last paragraph of the Order, the offender or offenders may be *tried* and punished for the military offence involved in his or their act, and the amount of any proceeding for the reparation of the civil damage shall be determined by the civil court.

1. The only precedents of such an assessment which have been recorded are those in G. O. 48 and 55, Dept. of La., 1866.

2. DIGEST, 25.

under the Article. The *trial* will preferably be first ordered,¹ since, if the reparation be subsequently sought to be made, the commander and the board will have the benefit of any material facts developed upon the original investigation. So, if the accused be acquitted, such acquittal will furnish good ground for not favorably entertaining the complaint or for reducing the amount to be assessed. If, upon the trial, a forfeiture of pay be adjudged, such forfeiture, in its execution, will take precedence of a stoppage that may subsequently be made under the Article.*

It need scarcely be added that notwithstanding a trial by court-martial, and proceedings had under the Article, the offender will still be amenable to the *local law* for such crime or misdemeanor as may have been involved in his acts.³

Defects of the Article—Practice. It may be remarked of this Article, in conclusion, that it is antiquated in some of its terms, indefinite and obscure in its more important provisions, and, as at present construed, confers upon military commanders a summary authority, which is exceptional in our law and of doubtful expediency. In view of its defects, commanders have been reluctant to act upon it, and the comparatively rare proceedings which have been instituted have been mostly confined to the period pending and immediately succeeding a time of war. On the other hand there have been but two or three precedents of trials of officers for 'refusing or omitting' to comply with its injunctions.⁴

FIFTY-FIFTH ARTICLE.

Its Purpose. This Article, which, dating from an early period of the British law,⁵ first appeared in our code in the Articles

1. This has in fact been done in the majority of cases. See G. O. 123, Dept. of the Gulf, 1864; Do. 48, 55, Dept. of La., 1866; Do. 59, Dept. of Washington, 1866; Do. 6, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1867.

2. And *vice versa*. DIGEST, 25.

3. DIGEST, 26.

4. See cases in G. O. 4, Dept. of the Ohio, 1863; Do. 161, Dept. of Washington, 1865. Compare here the penalty prescribed by the original Article (the 12th) of 1775—that the commander "shall be punished in such manner as if he himself had committed the crimes or disorders complained of."

5. Samuel, (p. 539,) while tracing it to ordinances of the reigns of Elizabeth and Charles I, adds: "This Article is formed principally on

of 1776,¹ is designed, by making severely punishable trespass committed by soldiers on the march or otherwise, to prevent straggling and maintain order and discipline in military commands, while at the same time availing to secure from intrusion and injury the premises and property of the inhabitants.

Construction—"Waste or spoil." These words, which are of similar signification, are not necessarily to be understood in strictly legal or technical sense. Thus "waste" is defined by Bouvier as "*spoil* or destruction, done or permitted, to lands, houses, or other corporeal hereditaments, by the tenant thereof to the prejudice of the heir, or of him in reversion or remainder;" according to Greenleaf,² "it includes every act of lasting damage to the freehold or inheritance." But, as employed in this Article, the words "waste or spoil" may be held to embrace any deliberate or wanton destruction or damage done not only to the real estate itself but to animals or things kept or held within or upon it,³ and to include acts of military persons, whether occupying the premises for the purposes of a camp or bivouac, marching through or near the same, or operating or being quartered in their neighborhood.

"Maliciously destroys any property whatsoever." The act here denounced is of a similar nature to the offence known to the common law, and which is now a statutory misdemeanor in most of the States, of "malicious mischief" or "malicious trespass." Under the present Article, however, in view of the general terms in which the offence is described, it is not considered necessary, as it was at common law,⁴ to show that the accused was actuated by malice against the *owner* of the property, but is

the 21st Art. of the rules for the government of the land forces, of James II." See Appendix.

1. The original Article, after the words "by the order of" the general commanding, &c., added the words, dropped in the form of 1806—"to annoy rebels or other enemies in arms against said States."

2. 2 Ev. § 650.

3. See a case in G. O. 10, Middle Mil. Dept., 1865, where the waste charged consisted mainly in injuries done to deer and sheep in a private park.

4. *State v. Robinson*, 3 Dev. & B. 130; *State v. Newby*, 64 No. Ca., 23, and cases cited; *Northcot v. State*, 43 Ala. 330. The common law rule has been modified by the statutes of some of the States.

ed sufficient to establish the existence of *any* form of malice, for example, malice toward the race, class, or family to which the owner belongs, or toward the thing itself where it is personal malice,¹ or toward a person who has the property in temporary possession as tenant or bailee,² or evil disposition in general.

Malice may be established by declarations of the accused, before or after³ the offence, or by acts or demonstrations evincing personal ill will and resentment. Or it may be inferred from the deadly or dangerous character of the weapon or instrument employed, from the mere wantonness of the act, or from the circumstances that afford a presumption of malice without the proof of crimes of which malice is an ingredient.⁴ The absence of malice may be negatived by evidence that the act was merely one of carelessness, or a mere incident of a neglect of order, unaccompanied by personal or evil *animus*; or that the act was committed under a *bona fide* though mistaken sense of duty or in compliance with the orders of a military superior to whom such superior may not have been the army commander referred to in the Article.

destruction will be complete if the property be substantially destroyed for the purpose for which it was designed, as where clothing so injured that it cannot be worn,⁵ or where telegraph wires severed and thus rendered useless.⁶

Malice being the gist of this second offence made punishable by the Article, the court, where the evidence shows an unjustified destruction of property but without malicious intent, will properly find the accused not guilty of the specific offence charged but guilty of "conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline."

Belonging to inhabitants of the United States. This phrase is expressed in the Article of 1776 as "belonging to the good people of the United States," while general enough to embrace both military persons as well as civilians, was evidently intended to

¹ See *State v. Avery*, 44 N. H. 392.

² *Stone v. State*, 3 Heisk. 457.

³ *State v. Graham*, 46 Mo. 490.

⁴ *Robson v. State*, 44 Ala. 380; *Hill v. State*, 43 Id. 335.

⁵ See case in G. O. 10, Dept. of the South, 1870.

⁶ See case in G. O. 29, Dept. of the Gulf, 1874.

refer mainly or entirely to the latter. It includes of course property of a corporation¹ equally with that of an individual. So, although, as has been seen, the original Article was resorted to in its application to acts directed against enemies or persons in rebellion, the present statute, as a more general rule of discipline, applies to trespasses upon the property as well of residents as of citizens, and of disaffected or disloyal as well as of individuals.²

“Unless by order of a general officer commanding a separate army in the field.” This exception is a recognition of a general principle of military law already referred to in Art. 42, in treating of the offence of committing “plunder or pillage,” viz. that the property of private individuals can be taken or destroyed by the military only in time of war, and by the authority of the officer in chief command of the troops operating against the enemy. The general commanding officer, referred to in the present Article, where the due prosecution of hostilities or the exigencies of the situation may require it, is empowered to seize and consume private property, especially when required for supplies for his command or as material for quarters or defence, or to prevent its falling into the hands of the enemy.³ In exercising such authority he represents the sovereignty of the Government; but no subordinate officer can undertake to exercise this function, or, however proper or desirable be the object in view, assume to make in the first instance the order which the statute empowers the army commander alone to originate.

“Besides such penalties as he may be liable to by law.” The Article has here in view the punishments affixed by the statutes of the State, &c., to the commission of “maliciously destroying” and like offences. It thus recognizes the principle that an officer or soldier, in committing a military disorder, becomes liable not only to trial by court-martial but also to the civil

1. See case in G. O. 29, Dept. of the South, 1874.

2. In a case in G. C. M. O. 15, Fourth Mil. Dist., 1867, an officer was severely sentenced for destroying the type, printing material, &c., of an alleged disloyal or hostile newspaper. And see DIGEST, 26.

3. See PART II—THE LAW OF WAR.

4. Compare *Terrill v. Rankin*, 2 Bush, 453; *Lewis v. McGowan*, 202.

cature for such criminal offence, (or cause of action,) as may be involved in his wrongful act.

FIFTY-SIXTH ARTICLE.

The Original Form. This provision has come down from Art. 91 of Gustavus Adolphus, through Art. 11 of Sec. IV of Charles I and Art. 33 of James II. In our own original article on the subject—No. 24 of the code of 1775—it was prescribed that an officer or soldier who should “*do violence, or offer any insult or abuse, to any person,*” &c., * * * *should suffer such punishment as should “be ordered by a regimental court-martial;”*—such court having, under that code, jurisdiction of the offences of officers as well as of soldiers. In the succeeding code—of 1776—the Article assumed substantially its present form.

Principle of the Article. This, and Art. 57, (making punishable the forcing of safeguards,) are the only ones in the code which provide specifically for the punishment of offences committed “*in foreign parts.*” An offence, to be cognizable under this, (or that,) Article must have been committed in time of war, or while our army was passing through the territory of a friendly power, or occupying some portion of a foreign country under a treaty, &c. The principle upon which a military court, in the absence of statutory authority, is invested with jurisdiction under the circumstances, is that of *extraterritoriality*, or a principle analogous thereto, by which an army, when without the domain of its own government, is held to carry with it its own code of discipline,—a principle already considered in Chapter VIII. In this instance, and that of Art. 57, the jurisdiction is conferred by express enactment.¹

Object of the Article. The main object of the Article, according to Samuel² and Hough,³ is to conciliate the inhabitants and induce them to bring provisions into the camp, &c., of the army by assuring to them protection in so doing. As violence

1. An offence of the kind described but committed within the Indian country in a Territory, would not be cognizable under this Article. See G. C. M. O. 77 and 88, Dept. of the Mo., 1870.

2. Pages 560-1. And see O'Brien, 115.

3. Page 307.

against them would effectually deter them, this is prohibited under the extreme penalty of death, and the prohibition is properly to cover the period of their coming to, remaining and returning from, the camp or station.¹

The "Violence" Contemplated. In view of the mandatory penalty of death imposed by the Article, the term *violence* is strictly construed to mean an immediate violence to the person and to embrace any crime or offence involving a battery.² Acts within the spirit but not the letter of the Article,—as for conduct not involving bodily injury, (the "insult" or "abuse," for example, included in the original Article,) or for a taking, destruction, &c., of the provisions, unaccompanied by personal assault on the offender would still be liable to trial, and to a punishment proportioned to the gravity of his offence, under Art. 55 or 60.

FIFTY-SEVENTH ARTICLE.

Its Scope. This provision is to be traced to Art. 12 of *Jarvis's Second*. As it first appeared in the code of 1776, it was thus expressed:—"Whosoever, belonging to the forces of the United States employed in foreign parts, shall force a safeguard, shall suffer death." Early in the late war, however, by an Act of Feb. 1862, the field of its application was extended to *the United States during a period of rebellion*, and it assumed its present form as Article of war in the revised code of 1874.

Premising that by the term, "rebellion against the supreme authority of the United States," is mainly had in view that surrectionary status, (illustrated under the next Article,) the existence of which the President is, by the Act of July 13, 1861 (Rev. Sts., Sec. 5301,) empowered at any proper time to declare we proceed to define the term "safeguard," and to consider what the offence of *forcing* one may consist.

The Safeguard—Its Nature, Form and Effect. The term "safeguard" has sometimes been treated as synonymous with "safe-conduct,"³ and the two have been confounded by some

1. Samuel, 566.

2. As *robbery*—the form of the violence in the cases in the G. C. O. cited in note 1, p. 949.

3. Halleck, Int. Law, 665.

writers on military law.¹ Both indeed are *personal* concessions and not transferable.² A safe-conduct, however, which is a privilege accorded generally to an enemy or an alien—especially where a diplomatic, consular, or other public official—of passing through the territory of a nation during war,³ is quite different from a safeguard as that term is now understood in our military law. As used in the present Article, and described in the Army Regulations,⁴ the word signifies a special privilege of protection for

1. Samuel, 567-571; Hough, 311-314; Simmons § 204.

2. Like a passport. That safe-conducts are not transferable, see Vattel, (Chitty's edition,) 461; 1 Kent, Com., 162; Halleck, 663.

3. Vattel, c. XVII; 1 Kent, Com., 162; Woolsey, 337; Halleck, 663; Lieber, (G. O. 100 of 1863,) § 86, 87.

In a Resolution of May, 1776, (1 Jour. Cong., 339,) *Congress* guarantees to an individual a safe-conduct for a journey from one place to another and for a residence there during pleasure. The granting of safe-conducts was probably indeed more common at that time than it has been at any later period in our history. [See 3 Jour. Cong., 693, and the Act of April 30, 1790, s. 28, by which the violation of safe-conducts and passports is made punishable by fine and imprisonment as a crime against the United States.]

4. The following are the paragraphs of the Army Regulations relating to this subject:—

“SAFEGUARDS.

1083. Safeguards are protections granted to persons or property in foreign parts by the commanding general, or by other commanders within the limits of their command.

1084. Safeguards are usually given to protect hospitals, public establishments, establishments of religion, charity, or instruction, museums, depositories of the arts, mills, post-offices, and other institutions of public benefit; also to individuals whom it may be the interest of the army to respect.

1085. A safeguard may consist of one or more men of fidelity and firmness, generally non-effective non-commissioned officers, furnished with a paper setting out clearly the protection and exemptions it is intended to secure, signed by the commander giving it, and his staff officer; or it may consist of such paper, delivered to the party whose person, family, house, and property it is designed to protect. These safeguards must be numbered and registered.

1086. The men left as safeguards by one corps may be replaced by another. They are withdrawn when the country is evacuated; but if not, they have orders to await the arrival of the enemy's troops, and apply to the commander for a safe-conduct to the outposts.

1087. Form of a safeguard :

By authority of _____,

A safeguard is hereby granted to [A. B——; stating precisely the place, nature, and description of the person, property, or buildings.] All

person, household, or property—all or either—against military marauders or other disorderly parties, granted by a military commander to private individuals, (deemed to have a claim upon the protection of the government,¹ or whose premises or property is thought desirable to protect in the interests of military discipline or otherwise,²) to corporations, or to hospitals or other public institutions or places.³ In according this privilege, the commander either causes a guard, (a soldier or soldiers,) to be posted at the dwelling of the applicant or other proper place, or he furnishes the proper person with a formal certificate or order in writing, subscribed by him in his official capacity to the effect that a safeguard has been granted, stating its subject and scope and calling upon the military to respect it. Or the command may furnish both guard and certificate: indeed, in practice the person to whom is accorded a written protection is generally also supplied with a guard to assure and enforce it.⁵ In common

officers and soldiers belonging to the army of the United States are therefore commanded to respect this safeguard, and to afford, if necessary, protection to [*the person, family, or property of ———, as the case may be.*]

Given at Headquarters, the — day of ———.

————— Maj. Gen. Commanding.
 ————— Adjutant General."

1. Tullock, (p. 39, 40,) refers to safeguards as privileges originally given, under the law of nations, to enemies, and, in 1811, extended to the inhabitants in Spain.

Persons holding property under the Government upon the theatre of war, would of course, if their property were endangered, be entitled to safeguards, where the public exigency would allow their being furnished. Thus, in G. O. 27, Dept. of the Tenn., 1863, it is ordered as follows: "All military commanders within this department will, on application, give safeguards to Government lessees of plantations on the Mississippi River, for their stock, provisions, household property, and every thing connected with the plantations so leased."

2. Granting a safeguard to an *improper* person may constitute a military offence. Thus, in a case in G. C. M. O. 267 of 1864, a general officer was convicted of "conduct to the prejudice," &c., in furnishing a safeguard for the protection of the property of a "notorious rebel," without "obliging him to take the oath of allegiance."

3. See the description of a safeguard in Halleck, 665. Compare also 1 Kent, Com., 163, note; Vattel, 369; O'Brien, 140; Army Regs., par. 1083, 1084. As to the granting by Gen. Scott of safeguards for churches, colleges, hospitals, mills, &c., in Mexico, see his Autobiography, p. 54.

4. The guard is generally posted by the provost marshal. See G. O. 22, Mountain Dept., 1862.

5. The writing may be furnished to the guard, (see par. 1085. Army

tary parlance the term "safeguard" is applied somewhat indifferently to the writing or order and to the sentry or guard: strictly speaking, however, either is but the evidence of the existence of the privilege.

Where the grant of protection is in written form, the writing should exactly and fully specify and describe the person or persons, property, buildings, places, &c., intended to be included: it should also properly state the limit of its duration, so that it may be known for what period it is good, when it may require renewal, &c. Where a guard only is employed, the sentinel, or the officer or non-commissioned officer commanding the detail, should be clearly instructed as to the same particulars.

By whom to be granted. The Army Regulations^a describe safeguards as granted "by the commanding general or by other commanders within the limits of their command." As "the effect of a safeguard is to pledge the honor of the nation that the person or property shall be respected by the national troops,"^b the same could not in general properly be accorded by a subordinate commander, but should proceed from the commander of the army, department or district, or the officer commanding a separate force acting independently in the enemy's country. It

(regs., *ante*;) or to a person employed as custodian of the property. See O'Brien, 140.) Halleck, (p. 665,) writes of safeguards:—"Sometimes they are delivered to the parties whose persons or property are to be protected; at others they are posted upon the property itself, as upon a church, museum, library, public office, or private dwelling." In G. O. 60, Army of the Potomac, 1862, it is ordered: "All safeguards granted at these Headquarters will be countersigned by the Provost Marshal General. Persons found violating these safeguards will be instantly arrested by the provost marshals." As to the form of a written safeguard, see par. 1087, Army Regs., *ante*; also the form recited in the specification of a case published in G. O. 111, Sixteenth Army Corps, 1863. In some instances safeguards have been announced in General Orders. Thus, in Gen. Wool's Orders, No. 424 of 1847, it is declared that safeguards have been granted to the following persons, their families and property, (naming them and their *haciendas*,) and all officers and soldiers are required to respect such safeguards, and afford protection accordingly where necessary. And see O'Brien, 140.

1. Thus Vattel, (p. 369,) referring to safeguards as "granted to lands and houses intended to be spared," adds—"These consist of *soldiers* to protect them against parties by producing the general's orders." And see McNaghten, 90.

2. Par. 1083, *ante*

3. O'Brien, 140.

is to be observed of a safeguard that, in the case of a separate army, &c., it is to be respected, during the term of its operation, by the commander, as well as by all other commanders or forces who may occupy or pass through the place.

Revocation. A safeguard, however, may be revoked for good cause, either at the instance of the person from whom it proceeded or his superior order of a superior commander or the cause would be the treason, treachery, or other offence, which, when discovered, would render the person worthy of the special protection afforded by a safeguard.

Forcing a Safeguard. The force used to break a safeguard will consist in a wilful disregard of the person, property, &c., to be protected, and will not be accorded. In a majority of the cases, the offence consisted in plunder, committed upon premises which were under the protection of a safeguard; accompanied by violent or threatening conduct.¹ The thrusting aside, disarming, assaulting, of a sentinel or guard posted to enforce a safeguard, or the failure to co-

1. See Vattel, 416, as to the rule, in the case of a safeguard. As to safeguards, the same rule is applied to those posted to enforce them must be respected (p. 369).—"The persons of these soldiers are to be treated as sacred: he cannot commit any offence against them, they have taken their station there as benefactors of his subjects." See par. 1086, Army Regulations.

A safeguard given for an illegal or traitorous purpose is not entitled to respect. Similarly, Arnold's case, where a safeguard being given him by a traitor with whom he was in communication, and void as a safe-conduct. See Sec. 1343.

2. As to the rule in this respect in regard to a safeguard, see 1 Kent, Com., 163; Halleck, 664.

3. "Every privilege when it becomes dangerous to the public is revoked." Vattel, 418.

4. See cases in G. O. 36 of 1864; Do. 2111, Sixteenth Army Corps, 1863; Do. 31105, Dept. of No. Ca., 1865.

5. G. O. 105, Dept. of No. Ca., 1865.

entering or interfering with the house, property, &c., placed under the protection, would be another marked form of a violation of the Article.¹

It is of course essential to the specific offence that the accused should have known of the existence and purpose of the safeguard which he is accused of forcing.² In the absence of positive or presumptive evidence of such knowledge, his act can properly be found by the court to have amounted only to ordinary marauding, or to some trespass or disorder, ("to the prejudice of good order and military discipline,") of less gravity than the capital offence described in the Article.³

XXIII. THE FIFTY-EIGHTH ARTICLE.

[JURISDICTION OF CRIMES IN WAR, &C.]

"ART. 58. *In time of war, insurrection, or rebellion, larceny, robbery, burglary, arson, mayhem, manslaughter, murder, assault and battery with an intent to kill, wounding, by shooting or stabbing, with an intent to commit murder, rape, or assault and battery with an intent to commit rape, shall be punishable by the sentence of a general court-martial, when committed by persons in the military service of the United States, and the punishment in any such case shall not be less than the punishment provided, for the like offence, by the laws of the State, Territory, or District in which such offence may have been committed.*"

Origin and Object. This provision, which, with but a single material change of language,⁴ is a republication of s. 30 of the Act of Congress of March 3, 1863, c. 75, appeared first as an Article of war in the Revision of 1874. Its enactment, during the

1. See McNaghten, (p. 89,) who also notes, (p. 91,) that the forcing must be actual; that an attempt to force will not constitute a violation of the Article.

2. Samuel, 571; O'Brien, 141.

3. In the few instances in our service of convictions under this Article, the sentence—to be shot—has been mitigated by the reviewing authority. See G. O. 36 of 1864; Do. 105, Dept. of No. Ca., 1865.

4. This change is the omission of the words—"or military commission," after the words—"a general court-martial," an omission proper for the reason that a military commission is not the appropriate tribunal for the trial of military persons.

late war, introduced a most marked innovation into our law—the investing of general courts-martial with jurisdiction, in time of war, &c., of the graver civil crimes when committed by military persons, without regard to whether such crimes directly prejudice military discipline or affect the military service. Its main object evidently was to provide for the punishment of crimes in localities where, in consequence of military occupation, or the prevalence of martial law, the action of the civil courts is suspended, or their authority cannot be exercised with the promptitude and efficiency required by the exigencies of the period and the necessities of military government.¹

The Jurisdiction Created—*Its limit as to time and occasion.* The operation of the Article is limited to “time of war, insurrection, or rebellion.” The term *war* has been heretofore defined as including foreign or international war, internal or civil war, and the state of hostilities known as Indian war. Under Art. 57, *rebellion* has been referred to as the status of armed revolt against the authority of the Government, the existence of which the President is empowered in a proper emergency to declare, by Sec. 5301, Rev. Sts. *Insurrection* is but a less extended form of rebellion, as rebellion is, ordinarily, less extended than civil war. It is remarked by Grier, J., in the *Prize Cases*,² that—“insurrection against a government may or may not culminate in an organized rebellion, but a civil war always begins by insurrection against the lawful authority of the government.” In our late war, however, in view of the dimensions of the existing insurrection, the words “rebellion” and “civil war” came to have for the time substantially the same meaning, and the terms “insurrection” and “rebellion” were indifferently employed with a similar import in executive proclamations and orders as well as in statutes.

Duration of war, &c.—Commencement of the period. In order to determine the limit of the jurisdiction as to time, it

1. See remarks of Gen. Pope in G. O. 29, Dept. of the Northwest, 1864. In *Coleman v. Tennessee*, 97 U. S. 513, it is observed that “the swift and summary justice of a military court” was invoked by this Article, “not merely to insure order and discipline among the troops but to protect citizens from the violence of soldiers.”

2. 2 Black, 666.

will be necessary to consider when a period of war, &c., commences and when it ends.

A foreign or international war will generally commence to exist upon a declaration of the same in some form by Congress under the clause of the Constitution which empowers that branch of the government "to declare war." Thus the war of 1812 was declared by the Act of June 18th of that year, consisting of a single section, enacting—"That war be and the same is hereby declared to exist between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the dependencies thereof, and the United States of America and their territories; and that the President of the United States is hereby authorized to use the whole land and naval force of the United States to carry the same into effect, and to issue to private armed vessels of the United States commissions or letters of marque and general reprisal," &c. In the only other instance in our constitutional history of a foreign war—that with Mexico, the declaration was less formally contained in the preamble to an Act of May 13, 1846, in these words:—"Whereas, by the act of the Republic of Mexico, a state of war exists between that government and the United States," &c.,—the statute then proceeding to empower the President to employ the army, navy, militia, and a specified force of volunteers, for the prosecution of the war, and making appropriations for the purpose.

But a declaration of war by Congress is not absolutely necessary to the legal existence of a status of foreign war. Such a war cannot indeed be declared or initiated by the President, but, if declared or commenced against us by another power, which, thereupon, before our Congress can or does act, proceeds to invade our territory, or to attack the defences of our coast or frontier, such invasion or attack must, under the orders of the Executive as Commander-in-chief, be met and resisted by force against force, and in this armed meeting and resistance there is war.¹ Under such circumstances a legal status of foreign war would actually exist, and the jurisdiction created by the present Article would become operative, in the absence of, or rather prior to, any formal declaration or other action on the part of Congress.

A civil war resembles this last form of foreign war in that it

1. On this point see remarks and rulings of Grier J., in *Prize Cases*, 2 Black, 668. Specific authority to employ the militia to repel an invasion is vested in the President by Sec. 1642, Rev. Sts.

exists of its own force and independently of any authentication of Congress; the Constitution making no provision for the declaration either of the beginning or end of such a status. This in the Prize Cases,¹ the court says of civil war that it "is not solemnly declared; it becomes such by its accidents—the number, power, and organization of the persons who originate and carry it on." And the like is true of an *insurrection* or *rebellion* not properly amounting to a civil war;—it commences and exists in the sense of the Article, when it has assumed such proportions that it becomes necessary to employ the armed force of the United States to combat and suppress it.

The proper date, however, of the commencement of such status will ordinarily be determined by the *proclamation* or order issued by the President, (in conformity with the existing state law, if any,) declaring the existence and character of the insurrection, requiring the insurgents to disperse, calling out the militia, announcing the proposed employment of the army and navy, &c. In the instance of the "Whiskey rebellion" in western Pennsylvania, the existence of the insurrectionary status was declared by the President in two proclamations issued under the Act of May 2, 1792, the second of which, of Sept. 25, 1794, was published immediately before marching the militia and volunteers against the insurgents.² Later, in the case of the obstruction of the same State to the enforcement of the tax upon dwellings, &c. the status of insurrection was first announced by proclamation of the President of March 12, 1799.³ In the further case of the recent Southern rebellion, the Supreme Court of the United States, in the case of *The Protector*,⁴ fixed upon the President's proclamation of intended blockade of April 19th, 1861, as properly establishing the date of the commencement of the war status so far as concerned the States mentioned therein, of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas; and the supplementary proclamation of the same character, of April 27th, 1861, embracing Virginia and North Carolina, as furnishing such date with reference to events occurring

1. 2 Black, 666.

2. See *The Protector*, 12 Wallace, 700.

3. Wharton, *State Trials*, 118, 141.

4. *Id.*, 458.

5. 12 Wallace, 700. And see *Prize Cases*, 2 Black, 635.

those two States. These proclamations were issued during a recess of Congress, the former announcing in terms the inauguration of the "insurrection."¹

The *existing law*, under and by the authority of which, in the event of insurrection, &c., the President would take action, by proclamation, &c., is contained in Title LXIX of the Revised Statutes.

Termination of the period. The Constitution, in vesting the President, "by and with the advice and consent of the Senate," the authority to make treaties, practically constitutes it, concurrently with that body, the peace-making power so far as it relates to wars with foreign nations. In the instance therefore of such conflicts, the war status will properly be held to end with the date of the *treaty*, or other agreement for the cessation of hostilities, thus formally entered into with the foreign power—a date which will ordinarily be publicly announced by executive proclamation.

In the case of a *civil* war, rebellion, &c., in the absence of any constitutional or legislative provision on the subject, a proclamation by the President to the effect that hostilities have come to an end or the rebellion or insurrection has been suppressed, may ordinarily be accepted as fixing an authoritative date for the discontinuance of the *status belli*. This mode of legally terminating such status was resorted to in the instance of the late rebellion, and has been recognized by the courts as sufficient.² In the case of *The Protector*,³ the Supreme Court held that the war ended, in all the States except Texas, on April 2d, 1866, the date of the President's proclamation announcing the final suppression

¹ A previous proclamation of April 15th, had announced the fact of an organized opposition to the laws and obstruction to their execution, and called out the militia to suppress the same, &c. It was the next succeeding proclamation of the 19th, however, which first declared the existence of the insurrection as such. As to the subsequent sanction, by resolution of Congress, of this proclamation,—a sanction, however, evidently regarded by the court in the *Prize Cases* as quite unnecessary in this case.—see 2 Black, 670, 671.

² "The suppression of the rebellion describes a political condition, and not a judicial fact. That condition can only be defined and determined by the political departments of the government; and their decision is not only binding but conclusive upon the judiciary." *Grosser v. U. S.*, 4 Ct. Cl. 15.

³ 12 Wallace, 702.

of the rebellion in those States, and in Texas on August 1 following, the date of the proclamation declaring its extinction in that State and generally.¹

In several cases in which courts-martial assumed to exercise jurisdiction, under Art. 58, *after* this date, their sentences were formally disapproved as adjudged in time of peace.²

Whether *Congress*, by its legislation, (resorted to subsequent to the date of these proclamations,) of March, 1867, known as Reconstruction Laws, did not in fact pronounce that the state of rebellion was still subsisting, so far at least as to authorize to provide for the government of the insurrectionary States, is a question which will be adverted to in PART II of this work.

It may well be remarked here that no temporary *truce or armistice*, pending hostilities, will have the effect to discontinue or suspend the war status, so as to deprive military courts during the interval of the jurisdiction created by the Article.⁴

As to *Indian* warfare, this, with us, is prosecuted under varying situations that the question whether a certain offense of the class specified in the Article was committed during a period of such war can be determined only by the circumstances of the particular case. If committed pending active operations against an Indian tribe, during the interval after the troops have entered upon the campaign and before they have been ordered to return to their previous posts as being no longer required for the prosecution of hostilities, it may be said to have been committed in a "time of war," and thus to be cognizable by a court-martial under the Article.⁵

1. And see Grossmeyer v. U. S., 4 Ct. Cl. 28.

2. See cases in G. O. 59, Dept. of Washington, 1866; Do. 14, Dept. of the South, 1866; Do. 15, Dept. of the Gulf, 1866; Do. 85, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1867; Do. 14, Dept. of Dakota, 1868.

3. A court-martial can of course have no capacity of itself to determine whether a state of war has begun or ended, but must accept the fact as declared or recognized by the proper superior authority. See GEST, 28.

4. See PART II, Title VII.

5. That a truce or armistice is not peace, but merely a suspension of active military operations of a hostile character—see Vattel, book II § 234; Lieber, (G. O. 100 of 1863,) § 142.

6. In a recent case, in G. C. M. O. 12 of 1882, three Indian scouts in U. S. service were sentenced to be hung on conviction of murder and violation of Art. 58, (and mutiny,) committed in Arizona, during a period of active hostilities against Apaches.

The period as affected by the place. It is to be noted that where the hostilities are confined to a particular State or States, or to any particular portion of the territory of the Republic, a court-martial will, strictly, be authorized to exercise the jurisdiction conferred by the Article only in cases of crimes committed within the limited theatre of such hostilities, for it is "time of war," &c., only in such locality. This condition is especially applicable to crimes committed in Indian wars, whose field is necessarily restricted to some inferior, though not always well-defined, region of the public domain.¹

Jurisdiction of courts-martial in time of peace not affected by the Article. The Article, in investing general courts with a special jurisdiction of certain crimes in time of war, by a necessary implication excludes them from exercising jurisdiction over the same in time of peace, except in so far as they may be authorized to exercise it under other Articles. The only *specific* provision conveying such authority is that of Art. 60, by which *larceny* is made cognizable, at all times, by courts-martial, where committed in respect to *public* property. Except in this instance the crimes named in Art. 58 cannot, in time of peace, legally be brought to trial by court-martial, unless they may come within the description of the general Article 62,—in that, being not capital, they are committed under such circumstances as to be "*prejudicial to good order and military discipline*;"² or may constitute "*conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman*" within the meaning of Art. 61.³ Under Art. 62, courts-martial have fully and not unfrequently taken cognizance of civil crimes when committed by soldiers, (and within the above description;) and that this jurisdiction is not affected by the provisions of Art. 58 is thus noticed by the U. S. Supreme Court in the recent case of *Ex parte Mason*:⁴—"As it" (Art. 58) "is to operate in time of war, it neither adds to nor takes from the powers which courts-martial have under the 62d Article in time of peace."

1. See Chapter VIII, p. 121—Jurisdiction under Art. 63: Application to Indian wars.

2. See *post*—Sixty-Second Article.

3. See *post*—Sixty-First Article.

4. 105 U. S., 699. And see DIGEST, 27, 4^o

The military jurisdiction conferred by the Article exclusive of that of the civil courts. That the jurisdiction created by the Article is not exclusive of, but concurrent with that possessed by the criminal courts of the United States or States, has been repeatedly declared. Thus, in the leading case on this point, *Coleman v. Tennessee*,¹ the Supreme Court held as follows:—"The section does not make the jurisdiction of military tribunals exclusive of that of the State courts. It does not declare that soldiers committing the offences named shall be amenable to punishment by the State courts. It simply declares that the offences shall be *punishable*, not that they *shall be punished* by the military courts; and this is merely saying they *may* be thus punished. Previous to its enactment the offences designated were punishable by the State courts, and soldiers in the military service who committed them were delivered over to those courts for trial; and it contains no words indicating an intention on the part of Congress to take from them the jurisdiction in this respect which they had always exercised. Viewed in the light of the known hostility of the American people to any interference by the military with the regular administration of justice in civil courts, no such intention should be ascribed to Congress in the absence of clear and direct language to that effect."²

The Crimes specified in the Article. These crimes will be defined in the following order:—Murder, Manslaughter, Mayhem, Rape, Robbery, Arson, Burglary, Larceny, Assault and Battery with intent to kill, &c. For anything further than definitions and the details of definitions, the student must be referred to treatises of the approved authorities on criminal law and to the rulings in adjudged cases.

To be defined by the common law. It is to be observed that as these crimes are not specifically defined in the Article or elsewhere in the written military law, they are to be interpreted

1. 97 U. S. 513-14.

2. And, to a similar effect, see *People v. Gardiner*, 6 Park. 143; *S. v. Rankin*, 4 Cold. 146; *Whiting*, War Powers, 376; G. O. 29, Dept. of the Northwest, 1864; Do. 32, Dept. of La., 1866; DIGEST, 27. But in *Coleman v. Tennessee*, it is held that the military courts had necessary exclusive jurisdiction of a homicide committed by a soldier in Tennessee in 1865, since the army could not legally be subjected to the laws or tribunals of the enemy's country *in time of war*.

by the doctrines of the *common law*, each being viewed as the common-law offence of the same name.¹

Degrees of crime not known to the law military. In this connection it may also be noted that no such distinctions as *degrees* of offences, such as are established by the statutes of some of the States, are recognized by the military law,² and that such distinctions have no bearing whatever upon the subject of the definition of the crimes specified in the Article, but are material only with reference to the question of their punishment, hereafter to be considered.

Murder—Definition. Murder, at common law, is the unlawful killing, by a person of sound memory and discretion, of any reasonable creature in being and under the peace of the State, with malice aforethought either express or implied.³ The homicide must be unlawful, that is to say "felonious" or other than "justifiable" or "excusable;" it must be committed by one who is neither *non compos* nor an infant under the age of criminal capacity; the person assailed must be a living being, (not an unborn infant;) such person must be entitled to the protection of the laws, not a public enemy⁴ nor a pirate; and lastly the act must be characterized by "malice aforethought" or "malice prepense," *i. e.* evil and deliberate purpose.

A brief description of murder which would cover all cases likely to arise under the present Article would be—the unlawful killing, with malice aforethought, by a legally responsible person, of any other person not a public enemy; or, as all killing with malice aforethought must be unlawful, as a person not legally responsi-

1. That common-law rules are to be followed in defining designations of crimes, and construing technical words, in criminal statutes, (in the absence of specific definition in the statute itself,) see *U. S. v. Magill*, 1 *Washington*, 463; *U. S. v. Outerbridge*, 5 *Sawyer*, 620; 1 *Hale*, P. C., (Am. Ed.,) 454, notes.

2. So, no such discriminations are recognized in the laws of the *United States* relating to civil crimes. *DIGEST*, 341; *U. S. v. Outerbridge*, *ante*.

3. *Coke*, 3 *Inst.* 47; 4 *Black. Com.* 195; 1 *East*, P. C., 214; 1 *Russell*, 482; 1 *Gabbett*, 454; 3 *Greenl. Ev.* § 130; 1 *Wharton*, C. L. § 303; 2 *Bishop*, C. L. § 732, and notes; *Com. v. Webster*, 5 *Cush.* 304; *G. O.* 23, *Dept. of Cal.*, 1865.

4. That taking the life of an enemy, after he has surrendered, or held as a prisoner of war, is murder—see *State v. Gut.* 11 *DIGEST*, 341-2.

ble cannot be chargeable with malice aforethought, and as killing of a public enemy can be regarded as committed with malice,—murder, at common law and unaffected by statute, may be simply and briefly described as *homicide with malice aforethought*.¹

The definition of murder is completed by adding that, to constitute this crime, the *death must occur within a year and a day* after the date of the act. This is the rule for both species of homicide, murder and manslaughter, at common law. Where death is not shown to have followed within a year and a day, law presumes that the wound or injury was not the occasion of the death—that it proceeded from some other cause.²

It may here be noted that where the act which is the cause of the death is committed in one State or district, while the death occurs in another, it is the former place which is in law held in *Guiteau's case*,³ the *place* of the murder or homicide.

Malice aforethought. The term *malice*, as ordinarily employed in criminal law, means simply the *wrongful intent* essential to the commission of crime. When used, however, in connection with the word "aforethought" or "premeditation," in defining the particular crime of murder, it signifies the same evil intent as the result of a determined purpose, premeditation, deliberation or brooding, and therefore as indicating, in the view of the law, a malignant or depraved nature, or, as Foster has expressed it, "a heart regardless of social duty and fatally bent upon mischief."⁴ The deliberate purpose need not have been long entertained; it is sufficient if it exist at the moment of the act. Malice aforethought is either "express" or "implied;" *express*, when the intent,—as manifested by previous enmity, threats, the

1. Compare *Holland v. State*, 12 Fla. 117.

2. 3 Greenl. Ev. § 120, 131—note, 143; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 312; Bishop, C. L. § 640.

3. *U. S. v. Guiteau*, 1 Mackey, 498.

4. Crown Law, p. 257, 262. In *Com. v. Webster*, 5 Cush. 304, Story, C. J. says of "malice" in the term "malice aforethought," that it is "used in a technical sense, including not only anger, hatred and revenge, but every other unlawful act and unjustifiable motive. It is not confined to ill will toward one or more individual persons, but is intended to denote an action flowing from any wicked and corrupt motive." And in the case of murder, indicating a malignant *animus*, commented upon by Gen. McDowell in G. O. 23, Dept. of Cal., 1865.

ice of any or of sufficient provocation, &c.,—is to take the life of the particular person killed, or, since a specific purpose to *kill* is not essential to constitute murder, to inflict upon him some excessive bodily injury which may naturally result in death;¹ *blinded*, where the intent is to commit a felonious or unlawful act; or, not to kill or injure the particular person—as where a party, intending to kill by shooting, &c., one person, actually hits and kills another;² or, when detected in a burglary, fires his pistol in the dark to aid his escape and kills an inmate of the house; or, being engaged in a riot, fires indiscriminately and kills some one; or, in resisting an officer of justice engaged in the execution of his duty, unintentionally kills him, &c. Thus a soldier who resists his military superior, when legally engaged in making an arrest or executing any other duty, and in resisting kills him, though not purposely, he is guilty of murder in law.³

In every case of apparently deliberate and unjustifiable killing, the law *presumes* the existence of the malice necessary to constitute murder, and devolves upon the accused the *onus* of rebutting this presumption. In other words, where in the fact and circumstances of the killing as committed no defence appears, the accused must show that the act was either no crime at all or a crime less than murder; otherwise it will be held to be murder in law.⁴

“The law considers that the party meant to effect what was the natural consequence of his act; that if the natural consequence of his act was death, he meant to kill.” *U. S. v. McGlue*, 1 Curtis, 3. That killing in a duel is murder, see “Twenty-Sixth Article.”

As in the case of a soldier who, in resisting arrest by an officer, discharged his musket at him with intent to kill him, but killed instead another soldier. *Angell v. State*, 36 Texas, 542; DIGEST, 341.

See *U. S. v. Travers*, 2 Wheeler, C. C. 490, where the killing was that of a private marine of an orderly sergeant who was properly attempting to arrest and restrain him while engaged in a brawl.

Foster, 255; 1 Gabbett, 455, 502; Manual, 110. “When on the trial of an indictment for murder, the killing is proved to have been committed by the defendant, and nothing further is shown, the presumption of law is that it was malicious, and an act of murder, and proof of matter of excuse or extenuation lies on the defendant.” *Com. v. York*, Mass., (9 Met.,) 93. “Malice is implied in every case of intentional homicide; that is to say when once it is established that a person was intentionally killed, the law implies that malice existed in the person who caused the death. If there are any circumstances of excuse or palliation which will rebut the presumption of malice, it is incumbent on him to show them.” *U. S. v. Outerbridge*, 5 Sawyer, 622. And see *U. S. v. Travers*, 2 Wheeler, C. C. 490; *Holland v. State*, 12 Fla. 117; *People v. Gibson*, 17 Cal. 283; *People v. Walter*, 1 Idaho, 393.

Justifiable and excusable homicide. The definition Murder is well illustrated by the two defences apposite to charge, viz: 1, that the killing was not murder but manslaughter, 2, that it was not felonious but justifiable or excusable in law. The distinction between murder and manslaughter will be apparent presently. Homicide is said to be "justifiable" when committed by a public officer in the due execution of the laws or administration of public justice, or when committed by any person in due prevention of a violent crime. So, homicide is justifiable where committed by an officer of the army, or at his instance in the suppression of a mutiny or other violent disorder, or in capture of an escaping prisoner or deserter, where no other available means are adequate for the purpose. Homicide is in "excusable" where it is the result of accident or mishap where it is committed in self-defence.

Self-defence. "A man may oppose force to force in defence of himself, his family or property."² Only such amount of force, however, may be used as is reasonably proportionate to the danger. Killing in defence of the person will be justified where circumstances are such as to warrant the conviction that danger to life or serious bodily harm is threatened and immediately pending.³ In defence of property, killing, as a means of preventing a trespass unaccompanied by violence, will not be justified. Where the trespass is serious, as in a case of housebreak with evident felonious intent, the occupant, especially if breaking in the night, will be justified in taking life in protection of his domicile.

Manslaughter. This crime is defined as an *unlawful killing without malice aforethought express or implied*. It is this absence of malice aforethought which distinguishes manslaughter

1. Homicide is described by the authorities as of three species:—"felonious" homicide, (which is either murder or manslaughter,) "justifiable homicide, and "excusable" homicide,—the two latter not being crime at all. The defence that homicide is justifiable or excusable is pertinent to an indictment or charge either for murder or manslaughter.

2. U. S. v. Wiltberger, 2 Washington, 515.

3. See G. O. 10, Dept. of the Platte, 1871. In justifying a killing in self-defence, it is admissible to show that the deceased was a person of a violent nature, bad temper or a quarrelsome disposition. Williams v. State, 74 Ala. 18; Territory v. Harper, 1 Ariz. 599.

from murder; its commission being ascribed to the "infirmity of human nature," and not to a depraved or wicked heart.¹ The only *malice* in manslaughter thus is the wrongful intent which is an ingredient in crime in general.

The authorities specify two kinds of manslaughter—*voluntary* and *involuntary*. "Voluntary" manslaughter, (the more usual of the two,) is that which is committed in a moment of excitement or while under the influence of passion, and commonly either in the course of a sudden *fighting* or upon some immediate strong provocation. "Involuntary" manslaughter consists in the accidental and unintentional causing of death, either by the doing or attempted doing of an act which, though unlawful, is not felonious or highly criminal or likely to be dangerous to human life, or by the doing of a lawful act in an incautious or negligent manner.

To determine whether an act of homicide is murder or voluntary manslaughter, the main test is the quality of the provocation by which the act was induced. Mere words, however gross or insulting, will not justify taking life, and where a homicide is committed under no other provocation than irritating language, the killing will be murder in law.* The same is true of gestures, unless they be of a character manifestly threatening to life—as where a pistol or other deadly weapon is evidently attempted to be drawn and used; in such case the crime committed may be reduced to manslaughter. In any case where the provocation, though material, is not excessive, as where a bare trespass is committed on property other than a dwelling, or where the person is assailed but not seriously, or where a more considerable battery is committed by a party not accountable—as a drunken man, the law will in general hold the killing to be not manslaughter but murder.

So, a homicide is commonly *manslaughter*, where, being unaccompanied by an intent to kill, it yet lacks some element which

1. "The true nature of manslaughter is, that it is homicide mitigated out of tenderness to the frailty of human nature." Shaw C. J., in Com. v. Webster, 5 Cush. 307. And see 4 Black. Com., 191; 3 Greenl. Ev., 119, 125; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 304; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 625, 672; G. O. 23, Dept. of Cal., 1865.

2. "No mere words applied by one man to another will justify the use of a deadly weapon; nor can they be the lawful occasion of that *beat*' which would reduce the act of killing from murder to manslaughter." U. S. v. Carr, 1 Woods, 480.

would have made it "justifiable" or "where a military superior, in enforcing take the life of an inferior, when less tion or restraint are available, his act is he is guilty of manslaughter.¹ Similar the exercise of an unduly severe measure of an excessive punishment, causing the death of an inferior, such superior is guilty of manslaughter.² And the legal crime the superior causes the death of another in not properly regulating the use of fire as in target firing or artillery practice.³

Mayhem. Mayhem, maiming, or the violently inflicting, upon any part an injury as to render him less able to

1. In G. C. M. O. 47 of 1877, in a case of slaughter in causing the death of a soldier him with his sword, the Secretary of War will be especially remembered by officers that a bullet to enforce their authority can only be the instant suppression of mutiny or violence this exceptional power of life or death upon respects in him the equable temper and judgment exercise, and holds him accountable accordingly for an officer so to lose his head as to be between a drunken brawl and a mutiny." And of 1867, in which an officer is convicted of assaulting a soldier by having him needlessly shot; DIGEST, 314; Ensign Maxwell's case note *Rex v. Thomas*, 1 Russell, Cr., 73; shooting and killing of a civilian by a soldier.

Otherwise, where the shooting, &c., and adequate means. DIGEST, 313; G. C. M. O. 1 Mil. Dist., 1868; S. O. 158, Hdqrs. Gen. 1868. And compare XIV Opins. At. Gen. Court in *U. S. v. Carr*, 1 Woods, 484, that officer charged with the order and discipline with scrupulous nicety the amount of force order. The exercise of a reasonable discretion.

2. 1 Wharton, C. L. § 431; *U. S. v. Corbett*, 4 Mason, 505, a master of a ship of a sick seaman by forcing him to go aloft to die. If the act is characterized by a brutal manner will be murder. *Id.*

3. See *Regina v. Hutchinson*, 9 Cox, 514 of 1871.

ainst his adversary ; the gravamen of the offence being that the t permanently disables the person "to fight in defence of the ng and country, and as a soldier protect himself on the field of ttle."¹ Thus, while to cut off or disable a hand, an arm, or a leg, to strike out or blind an eye, was a mayhem at common law, deprive a person of an ear or of his nose was held *not* to be, ice such an injury would disfigure only and not incapacitate for ar-service.² Acts indeed of the latter character have, *by statute*, en made punishable similarly to common-law maims,³ but such ts, (except perhaps when committed at a place under the exclu- ve jurisdiction of the United States,) would not properly be cog- zable as "mayhem" under the present Article,⁴ which, as to is term, is to be interpreted by the common law.⁵

To constitute mayhem, it was not deemed essential that the jury should be inflicted upon another ; a self-mutilation being garded as within the definition. Thus a soldier who deprived

1. 1 Hawkins, c. 44, s. 1; 4 Black. Com., 205; 1 Russell, 719; 1 Gab- tt, 98; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 581; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 1001; Com. v. Newell, Mass. 248; State v. Briley, 8 Port. 474. Neither the weapon or in- rument by which, nor the manner in which, the disabling or injury is fected, is material. U. S. v. Scroggins, Hempstead, 478; Rex v. Car- ll, Leach, 55. It is no less mayhem, though the severed member is stored to its place and grows again. Slatterly v. State, 41 Texas, 619.

2. 1 Hawkins, c. 44, s. 2; 4 Black. Com., 205; 1 Russell, 720; 1 Whar- n, C. L. § 581; Scott v. Com., 6 S. & R. 226.

3. Thus by the Act of April 30, 1790, c. 9, s. 13, (now Sec. 5348, Rev. s.,) the maliciously cutting off an ear, cutting out or disabling the ngue, putting out an eye, slitting the nose, cutting off the nose or lip, d the cutting off or disabling of any limb or member, with intent to aim or disfigure, are made together equally and alike punishable with risonment and fine. Our statute is derived mainly from the 22 & 23 harles II, c. 1, known as the "Coventry Act," from Sir John Coventry, member of parliament, who had been assaulted by a slitting of the nose. e U. S. v. Scroggins, Hempstead, 478.

4. In a recent case in G. C. M. O. 103, Dept. of the Mo., 1881, in which e biting off, by a soldier, of a large piece of the *ear* of another soldier as charged as 'Mayhem in violation of the 62d Art. of war,'—while ch charge was properly held a substantially sufficient pleading of a dis- der under the Article named, and the proceedings were approved, it as well remarked that the act did "not constitute mayhem within the mmon law meaning of that term." And see the similar cases in G. O. i, Dept. of Texas, 1870; Do. 36, Dept. of the Platte, 1871.

5. As to this rule of interpretation as applying to the present Article nerally, see *ante*—MURDER.

himself of the use of a member necessary to qualify him for military service, was considered to be chargeable with a mayhem.

The malice, or criminal purpose, essential to legal mayhem, the intent to effect the disabling of a member, may be presumed from the circumstances of the act by which the maiming is effected. It is not necessary to show that this intent was the result of deliberation, since it may be formed instantaneously, or in the course of a sudden encounter or combat.² As in case of homicide, the charge may be disproved by evidence showing that the injury caused was committed in self-defence.³

Rape—Definition. Rape is defined as the unlawful carnal knowledge of a woman forcibly and against her will or conse-

The persons. It is a general principle that rape must be committed by a male person of at least fourteen years of age being a conclusive presumption of the common law that a person of a less age is physically incapable of its perpetration. It is therefore the almost uniform ruling of the courts that where an accused is under fourteen, evidence to show that he is an adult is not admissible to the rule and in fact capable will be inadmissible.⁴

The person upon whom the crime is committed may be of any age; a female is never too young to be the subject of it.⁵ So, the subject may be any woman except the legal wife of the accused even although she be his mistress, or a common harlot.⁷

1. *Rex v. Wright*, 1 East, 396; 1 Russell, 720. "One may not intentionally maim himself; and, if at his request another maims him, both are guilty." 1 Bishop, C. L. § 259.

2. 1 East, P. C., 393.

3. 1 Wharton, C. L. § 582; 1 Bishop, C. L. § 257.

4. Co. Lit., 123 b; 1 Hawkins, c. 41, s. 1; 4 Black. Com., 210; East, P. C., 434; 1 Russell, 675; 1 Gabbett, 831; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 2; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 550; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 1113.

5. 1 Hale, 630; 4 Black. Com. 212; 1 Russell, 676; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 2; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 551; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 1117; *Reg. v. Phillips*, 8 C. P. 736; *Reg. v. Allen*, 9 C. & P. 31; *People v. Randolph*, 2 Park. 2; *State v. Handy*, 4 Harr. 566; *State v. Sam*, Winst. 300.

6. 2 Bishop, C. L. § 1118; *Stephen v. State*, 11 Ga. 227.

7. 1 Hale, 628; 1 Hawkins, c. 41, s. 2; 4 Black. Com. 213; 1 Russell, 677; 1 Gabbett, 832; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 211; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 564; Bishop, C. L. § 1119; *People v. Abbott*, 19 Wend. 192; *Pleasant State*, 13 Ark. 362; *Higgins v. People*, 1 Hun, 307; G. O. 26, Fifth Dist., 1867. In stating the law, that rape may be committed even upon a concubine, East, (1 P. C., 445,) adds—"for a woman may forsake

The Carnal Knowledge. This is established by proof of penetration only. The least penetration will be sufficient. It is not necessary to prove emission nor even that the *hymen* was ruptured or injured.¹ "The essence of the crime," as the court observe in an early case, "is not the begetting of a child, but the violence done to the person and feelings of the woman, which is completed by penetration."²

The force. The force implied in the term "rape" may be of any sort, if sufficient to overcome resistance. The intent to ravish by force, notwithstanding resistance, is the gist of the offence.³ It is not essential that the force employed consist in physical violence; it may be exerted in part or entirely by means of other form of duress, or by threats of killing or of grievous bodily harm or other injury, or by any moral compulsion.⁴ A less degree of force or intimidation will ordinarily be required to be shown where the female is of tender age, in feeble health, or imbecile, than where she is mature, strong and intelligent.⁵

unlawful course of life, and the law will not presume her incapable of amendment."

1. 1 East, P. C. 438; 1 Russell, 678-9; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 210; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 554, 555; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 1132; Reg. v. Allen, 9 C. & P. 31; Reg. v. Jordan, Id., 118; Reg. v. Hughes, Id., 752; State v. Le Blanc, 3 Brev. 339; Waller v. State, 40 Ala. 325. Upon this point, however, the English rulings conflicted in some measure until the law was settled by the statute of 9 Geo. 4, c. 31, which enacted that—"the carnal knowledge shall be deemed complete upon proof of penetration only." Statutes to a similar effect exist in many of our States.

2. Pennsylvania v. Sullivan, Add. 143. "The essence of the crime consists in the violence done to the person of the sufferer, and to her sense of honor and virtue." 3 Greenl. Ev. § 210. Or, in the language of Foster, (p. 274,) "her quick sense of honor and pride of virtue."

3. "The jury must be satisfied that the prisoner, when he laid hold of the prosecutrix, not only desired to gratify his passions upon her person, but that he intended to do so at all events, and notwithstanding any resistance on her part." Rex v. Lloyd, 7 C. & P. 318. And see 1 Russell, 692; Com. v. Merrill, 14 Gray, 417.

4. "If the woman submitted from terror, or the dread of greater violence, the intimidation becomes equivalent to force." Pleasant v. State, 13 Ark. 374. If the jury are "satisfied that her will was overcome by fear of the accused," a conviction will be proper. Strang v. People, 2 Mich. 1. And see 1 Hawkins, c. 41, s. 6; 1 East, P. C. 444; 1 Russell, 677; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 211.

5. See 1 Wharton, C. L. § 558, 560; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 112

Non-consent. Absence of free will, or non-consent,¹ on the part of the female, may consist and appear in her making resistance till overpowered by physical force; in her submitting to the cause, in view of the strength and violence of her assailant or the number of those taking part in the crime, resistance must be useless if not perilous;² in her yielding through reasonable fear of death or extreme injury impending or threatened; in the fact that she is rendered senseless and incapable of resistance by toxicating drink or a stupefying drug;³ in the fact that she is a feeble or otherwise *non compos*,⁴ or that she is a child under the age of ten—in which case the law presumes that she is incapable of consenting to this act;⁵ in the fact that her will has been constrained, or her passive acquiescence obtained, by fraud, surprise, false pretence, or other controlling means or influence.⁶

As to the details of the proof required to establish the offence under the different circumstances of its perpetration, the subject of the testing of the credibility of the prosecutrix, the defence which may be set up to the charge, &c., the student must be referred to the treatises on criminal law and the authorities there cited.

1. It is rather more precise to describe the act as committed *against* or *without the consent* than *against the will* of the female, since cases of rape may occur where the woman, while certainly not consenting, is capable of exercising will at the time. See definition in 2 Bishop, C. L. § 1115.

2. "If non-resistance on the part of the prosecutrix proceeds merely from her being overpowered by actual force; or from her not being able from want of strength, to resist any longer; or if, from the number of persons attacking her, she considered resistance dangerous and absolutely useless; the crime is complete." 1 Russell, 677. "A consent induced by fear of personal violence is no consent." 2 Bishop, C. L. § 1125.

3. 3 Greenl. Ev. § 211; 1 Wharton, C. L. 562; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 11125, 1126; Reg. v. Camplin, 1 C. & K. 746; Com. v. Burke, 105 M. 376; Com. v. Beale, 2 Whart. & Stillé, Med. Jur. § 245. It does not affect the case that the insensibility or powerlessness be self-induced. In some of the States carnal knowledge of an intoxicated female is made a separate statutory offence.

4. 2 Bishop, C. L. § 1123; Rex v. Fletcher, 8 Cox, 131; State v. Taylor, 28 Iowa, 397.

5. 1 Hale, 628; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 211; Stephen v. State, 11 Ga. 22; G. O. 14, Dept. of the South, 1866.

6. See 1 Russell, 677; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 211; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 53; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 1122; Reg. v. Case, 4 Cox, 220; Rex v. Stanton, 1 C. & K. 415; Walter v. People, 50 Barb. 144.

Robbery—Definition. Robbery, at common law, is a felonious taking of his property from the person, or presence, of another, by means of violence, or putting in fear.¹ Its nature is well illustrated by comparing it with larceny. Thus it is called by Blackstone²—"an open and violent larceny from the person;" and Bishop³ writes:—"Robbery is a species of aggravated larceny, committed from the person, (or from his immediate presence and custody, deemed in law a taking from the person,) the principal aggravating matter being usually, not always, an assault." And the same author further characterizes robbery as "a mere compound larceny."⁴

The felonious intent. The term "felonious," in the definition of robbery, refers to the sort of criminal intent with which, in this crime as in larceny, the taking must be accompanied, *viz.* the purpose to steal or *animus furandi*; in other words the intention illegally to possess one's self of the property of another without his consent.⁵ Thus if a party take forcibly from another an article of property under a *bona fide* belief that it is his, (the taker's,) own, the act is not robbery but a trespass only; but in such case it must clearly appear that the claim of title was an honest one.⁶

1. Coke, 3 Inst. 68; 1 Hale, 532; 1 Hawkins, c. 34; 4 Black. Com. 242; 3 Chitty, C. L. 801; 1 Russell, 867; 1 Gabbett, 3 Greenl. Ev. § 223; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 846; U. S. v. Jones, 3 Washington, 216; Com. v. Clifford, 8 Cush. 216.

2. 4 Com. 243. The taking must be by force or a previous putting in fear, which makes the violation of the person more atrocious than privately stealing. For, according to the maxim of the civil law, '*qui vi repuit, fur improbius esse videtur.*' This previous violence or putting in fear is the criterion that distinguishes robbery from other larcenies."

Id. Robbery is also 'distinguished from larceny in being a violent or demonstrative act in the presence of the party assailed, while larceny is in general characterized by secrecy, privacy, or fraud.' Mahoney v. People, 48 How. Pr. 185.

3. 1 C. L. § 992, (third edition.) In the seventh edition, § 1156, the definition is—"Robbery is larceny committed by violence from the person of one put in fear."

4. 1 C. L. § 1158.

5. 1 Russell, 871; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 227; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 848.

6. See *Rex v. Hall*, 3 C. & P. 409; 1 Russell, 871; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 848, 853. That the taking of property under alleged belligerent rights, that is to say by the authority of a proper military superior in time of war, is not robbery—see *Com. v. Holland*, 1 Duv. 182; *Hammon* v. State, 3 Cold., 129.

The taking. To constitute the taking in robbery, the property must pass into the actual possession of the alleged taker although it remain in his possession but for a very brief period. There may be a taking in law as well as in fact;¹ as where the property is not *seized*, but, by force, threats, or other intimidation is *caused to be delivered* to the accused, or to come into his hand. So is the taking held to be robbery in law, where it is *pretend* to be, or is given the *form* of, a regular transaction by the offender, force or intimidation being however at the same time employed.

The property. This may be personal property of any description or value. It must indeed possess some value but how much is immaterial.² "A penny as well as a pound, forcibly extorted, makes a robbery."³ The property need not be held by the party by right of absolute ownership: it is sufficient if he has in it only such a special property as may arise from its being in his legal custody as agent, bailee, or trustee, that is to say a right of possession, use, &c. Indeed in robbery the essential point to the ownership of the property is, not so much that it should belong to the person robbed as that it should not belong to the taker.⁴

The person or presence. It is characteristic of robbery that it is an offence as well against the person as against property, that violent harm or wrong done to the individual being indeed the element which gives it its gravity. The term person includes the body and the clothing. It is not necessary that the individual should have been aware that he has parted with his property.

1. 'Any appreciable, though momentary, removal of the article from the possession of the owner or holder, will be sufficient.' *Rex v. Lapiere*, 1 Leach, 320. And see 3 Chitty, C. L. 802; 1 Russell, 870.

2. 1 Russell, 871; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 226.

3. 1 Wharton, C. L. § 849; *U. S. v. Jones*, 3 Washington, 216; *Rex v. Winkworth*, 4 C. & P. 444; *Rex v. Edwards*, 6 Id. 521; 2 East, P. C. 711-731, and cases cited.

4. 1 Hale, 533; 1 Russell, 871; 2 East, P. C. 712; *Case of Private Britton*, G. O. 17 of 1864, (where however the offence is, erroneously, charged as "grand larceny.")

5. Coke, 3 Inst. 69; 2 East, P. C. 707; 1 Gabbett, 582; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 224; *Rex v. Bingley*, 5 C. & P. 602.

6. 1 Russell, 869.

7. *Com. v. Clifford*, 8 Cush. 218; *People v. Vice*, 21 Cal. 345.

ice he may at the time have been rendered insensible by a blow or otherwise,¹ or, occupied with the assault, may not have received the abstraction of the article.²

It is also not essential that the article, when taken, should be the actual bodily possession of the party: the possession may *constructive* as well as actual, and if the taking be from his immediate custody or charge, or—as it is commonly expressed—*in his presence*, the act, in law, will be equivalent to a taking from the person.³

The force, or putting in fear. The employment of force and the inducement of fear may both concur in a case of this kind, but proof of either will be sufficient to establish the specific offence.⁴ This element is sometimes described as “force actual, constructive;” *actual* force, as it is expressed by Tilghman C. in a case in Pennsylvania,⁵ ‘being applied to the body;’ *constructive*, ‘operating, by threatening words or gestures, on the mind.’ The force may consist in any battery or duress sufficient to resist or overcome resistance,⁶ but it must be physical; fraud, for instance, will not supply the place of actual violence.⁷ The putting in fear may be by a display of superior force or numbers, or menace of death or other considerable bodily harm, by intimidating demonstration without words, by threats of destruction or injury to valuable property, &c. The fear, to supply the place of actual violence, need not amount to great fright or terror, but the circumstances must be such as to excite a reasonable apprehension of the danger menaced and to constrain the will.⁸

. See Foster, 128.

. Com. v. Snelling, 4 Bin. 379.

. 1 Hale, 533; 4 Black. Com. 243; 2 East, P. C. 707; 3 Chitty, C. L. 1177; 1 Russell, 873; 1 Gabbett, 583; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 223, 228; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 1177, 1178.

. The force must be employed before or with the taking. “A *subsequent* violence or putting in fear will not make a *precedent* taking, effected clandestinely or without either violence or putting in fear, (as a *larceny*,) amount to robbery.” 1 Russell, 874.

. Com. v. Snelling, 4 Bin. 383.

. 3 Chitty, C. L., 804-5; 2 East, P. C., 708; 1 Russell, 871, 875-6; 1 Gabbett, 583; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 229.

. See 2 Bishop, C. L. § 1166.

. 3 Chitty, C. L., 803; 4 Black. Com., 243-4; 2 East, P. C. 707; 1 Russell, 874, 879; 1 Gabbett, 582, 587; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 22

Arson—Definition. Arson, at common law, is the malicious burning of the house of another.¹ "It is," says Blackstone,² "an offence against the right of habitation³ which is acquired by the law of nature as well as by the laws of society;" or—as it is expressed by Bishop⁴—"though the thing burned is realty, the offence is rather against the security of the habitation than the property in it." Though ordinarily perpetrated under the cover of darkness, the time of its commission,—whether in the day or in the night,—is wholly immaterial.⁵ Further, not being a crime against human life, it is not essential that there be any human being in the building at the time it is fired.⁶

The intent. The burning must be *malicious*, that is to say committed with a criminal or felonious intent. Legal malice, as has been heretofore explained, does not mean personal spite or hostility. In arson, therefore, it is not essential that the offender shall be actuated by a purpose to cause loss or injury to any particular individual.⁷ The "malice" may be express or implied;

1. 1 Wharton, C. L. § 825; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 8. And see Coke, 3 Inst. 66; 1 Hale, 566; 1 Hawkins, c. 39; 3 Chitty, C. L., 1121; 2 East, P. C., 1015; 2 Russell, 548; 1 Gabbett, 74.

In Sec. 5385, Rev. Sts., arson is described as the wilful and malicious burning of "any dwelling house or mansion house, or any store, barn, stable or other building, parcel of any dwelling or mansion house."

It is to be noted that, at common law, the burning of "*a barn stored with hay or grain*," though not within the curtilage or neighborhood of a dwelling, is sometimes described as arson. Thus Chitty, (3 C. L., 1121,) defines arson as a burning of "the house or barn of another." And see 1 Hale, 567; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 825, 834.

2. 4 Com. 220.

3. Or, as it is not unfrequently described,—"an offence against the possession." See *post*.

4. 1 Bishop, C. L. § 577.

5. Coke, 3 Inst. 66; 3 Chitty, C. L., 1126; 2 East, P. C., 1021; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 57.

6. "Arson is not necessarily a crime against human life or the personal safety of others. Although the endangering of human life is a frequent consequence of its commission, it is not one of its necessary characteristics. The offence may be complete without the life of any human being having been put in the slightest peril. The probable danger to life is undoubtedly one of the circumstances which aggravates the offence but it does not constitute it." *People v. Henderson*, 1 Park. 563.

7. "The term *malice*, in this case as in many others, does not imply a design to injure the party who is eventually the sufferer, but merely an evil and mischievous intention, however general, producing damage to individuals." 3 Chitty, C. L., 1122.

ss, where the intent is to burn the particular house which d; *implied*, where the burning does not correspond with the e design of the offender—as where the design is to burn the of A, and that of B is actually burned instead,¹ or where rning has resulted from some other felony or criminal act alone was originally contemplated.² But where the burn- sults not from such an act but from a mere trespass or negli-, the malice necessary to arson will not be implied.³

e burning. There must be an actual burning; an intent n, not carried out, will not be sufficient. But the burning not involve the entire edifice or any considerable part of the it is enough if it extend to a small portion, how small is terial. And even such portion need not be wholly con- l. To constitute a burning, there need be only some decom- on, wasting, or destruction of the fibre of the wood, or some egration of the stone, brick, or other material; and, in the f wood, though a mere scorching is not sufficient, a char- s all that is required.⁴

e house. The term “house” in the definition of arson at on law includes not merely the dwelling or mansion in the occupant has his abode but, in the words of Hale,⁵ out-houses that are *parcel* thereof, though not contiguous to under the same roof.” The term has a somewhat broader than the term “dwelling-house” in burglary. The house be a habitation, *i. e.* lived in,⁶ though, if at the time of the e the occupant and his family chance to be temporarily ab-

Coke, 3 Inst. 67; 2 East, P. C., 1019; 2 Russell, 549; 3 Greenl. 56.

On the familiar principle of law that every man is to be taken to the natural and probable consequences of his acts. See 3 Greenl. 56.

Hawkins, c. 39, s. 5; 4 Black. Com., 222; 1 Gabbett, 74; 1 Whar- L. § 829.

On this part of the subject, see Coke, 3 Inst. 66; 1 Hawkins, c. 3; Chitty, C. L., 1120, 1121; 2 East, P. C. 1020; 2 Russell, 548; n. l. Ev. § 35; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 826.

P. C., 567. And see the terms of Sec. 5385, Rev. Sts., cited

Reg. v. England, 1 C. & K. 533; *Surman v. Darley*, 14 M. & W. 62; *Com. v. Barney*, 10 Cush. 478.

sent, the quality of the offence will not be changed in law.¹ The most approved test for determining, in a case of doubt, whether a domestic out-building is within such a reasonable proximity as to identify it with the actual residence, in a case of arson, appears to be 'to inquire whether the burning of it would endanger the main structure.'²

The ownership or property. Arson being an offence against the possession, and made punishable for the protection of the habitation not of the title, the *person* indicated in the definition need not be the absolute owner of the house but may have in it the special property of a tenant only.³ And the nature or duration of his tenancy is immaterial, nor will the law inquire into it provided the house is shown to be his private dwelling at the date of the offence. It is thus the legal possession rather than the actual ownership which is to determine whose house the building burned should be alleged and proved to be.

As arson consists in the burning of the house of another, it is clear—and it is so held—that for one to burn *his own* dwelling is not arson at common law.⁴

Burglary—Definition. Burglary, at common law, is an unlawful breaking and entering, in the night-time, into the dwelling-house of another, with the intent to commit a felony therein.⁵ Like arson, it is an offence, not so much against property as against the peace and security of the habitation, of which Blackstone⁶ writes that "the law of England has so peculiar and tender a regard to the immunity of a man's house that it styles it his castle, and will never suffer it to be violated with impunity." The especial significance and aggravation of the crime

1. *State v. McGowan*, 20 Conn. 246; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 835.

2. See 1 Wharton, C. L. § 833; *Gage v. Shelton*, 3 Rich. 250.

3. 3 Chitty, C. L., 1121, 1124; 2 Russell, 551; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 64; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 836.

4. 1 Hale, 568; 2 East, P. C., 1022; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 53; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 12. Such a burning, where resorted to for the purpose of fraudulently securing the insurance, is a statutory arson in some of the States. See 1 Wharton, C. L. § 843.

5. Coke, 3 Inst. 63; 1 Hale, 549; 1 Hawkins, c. 38, s. 1; 4 Black. Com., 224; 2 East, P. C., 484; 3 Chitty, C. L., 1101; 1 Russell, 785; 1 Gabbett, 169; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 74; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 758; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 90; *State v. Wilson*, Cox, 440.

6. 4 Com. 223.

consists in the fact that the dwelling is invaded in the hours of darkness and repose, when sleep has disarmed the inmates and exposed them to be assailed or despoiled while defenceless and in terror.¹

The breaking. This may be actual or constructive; that is to say by a direct physical act of force, or indirectly by means of fraud, artifice, intimidation, or conspiracy with an inmate of the dwelling.²

Actual breaking. The force here contemplated is merely legal force, not violence. A very slight degree of force is often only required, and the kind of force exerted is quite immaterial. Burglary being a violation of the security of the habitation, the breaking must be of some portion or fixture of the building relied upon for the protection of the dwelling.³ The term breaking is used in a technical sense; an opening, removing, displacing, &c., of any fastening or customary barrier to entrance, being equivalent to an actual breaking or severing.⁴ Thus the breaking, in burglary, may consist in picking a lock, opening a locked door by a false key, turning with an instrument a key left in the door on the inside,⁵ prying open a fastened door or window,⁵ boring and pushing back an inside bolt, cutting out a panel or making a hole in a door, wall, shutter, &c., cutting through or breaking in a pane of glass,⁷ or in simply opening a shut door by raising the latch or drawing back the bolt by turning the handle, or in raising or letting down a closed window-sash.⁸

But gaining access to an interior by means of a barrier left

1. Coke, 3 Inst. 63; 4 Black. Com. 224; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 75; R. v. Margetts, 2 Leach, 931.

2. See 2 East, P. C., 485; 1 Russell, 786, 792; 1 Gabbett, 169; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 76; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 765, 766.

3. 2 Bishop, C. L. § 96; State v. Boon, 13 Ire. 246.

4. 4 Black. Com., 226; Com. v. Stephenson, 8 Pick. 355; State v. Boon, ante.

5. Otherwise where the locked door is opened by means of a key left in the door on the outside; such a case being analogous to that of a door or window left open. Rex v. Alston, 1 Swin. 433.

6. Prying off a portion of the weather-boarding from an out-building, parcel of the dwelling, was held a breaking, in Fisher v. State, 43 Ala. 17.

7. See Rex v. Perkes, 1 C. & P. 300; Do. v. Bird, 9 C. & P. 44; Do. v. Robinson, 1 Mood. 327.

8. 1 Wharton, C. L. § 759, 767; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 91.

Further, a breaking may be constructively effected through a conspiracy with a servant or other inmate of the dwelling, by whom a door, &c., is opened to the assailant, or keys are furnished him.¹

The entering. This is the accompaniment or complement of the breaking, without which the burglary is not effected; a breaking alone does not complete the crime. To constitute an entry, it is not essential that the party should personally enter in the ordinary sense of the word; the least entering of any part of the body, as a hand, foot, or even finger, is sufficient to satisfy the law.² Thus, where a party thrusts his hand or a part of his hand through a hole which he has made in a shutter or window and seizes or attempts to seize property; or where, with felonious intent, he puts his arm or hand through a pane of glass which he has broken, for the purpose of unfastening or opening an inner barrier—a legal entering is held to be effected.³ And so it is said that there is an entering where the foot of the burglar crosses the threshold of the house.⁴ Further, to constitute an entering, it is not even essential that any portion of the body should enter the dwelling, provided some instrument, inserted for the purpose of accomplishing the felony, do actually penetrate within it.⁵ Again an entry may be effected and a burglary completed by means of an innocent third person; as where a young child is compelled to pass through a small window or aperture broken from without, and instructed to seize and bring out certain articles of property.⁶

What has been said of the breaking of an *inner* door, &c., as well as of *constructive* breaking, applies also to the entering.

1. 1 Russell, 794; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 77; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 766. In such cases both parties are held equally guilty of burglary.

2. Coke, 3 Inst. 64; 1 Hale, 551, 554; 1 Hawkins, c. 38, s. 3, 7; Foster, 108; 4 Black. Com., 226, 227; 2 East, P. C., 490; 3 Chitty, C. L., 1106, 1108; 1 Russell, 786, 794; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 76, 78; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 774, 775.

3. Gibbon's Case, Foster, 108; Rex v. Perkes, 1 C. & P. 300; Do. v. Bailey, R. & R. 341; Do. v. Davis, Id., 499; Fisher v. State, 43 Ala. 17; Franco v. State, 42 Texas, 276.

4. 1 Hawkins, c. 38, s. 7; 4 Black. Com. 226.

5. 1 Russell, 795; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 78; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 774; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 92.

6. 1 Hale, 555; 1 Russell, 797; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 78. So "if a man so employs his wife." 7 Dane, Ab., 136.

The time. It is of the essence of burglary at common law that it shall be committed in the night-time, or, as it is termed in the old pleadings, *noctanter*. Both the breaking and the entering must be in the night, or there is no burglary; the two, however, may be on succeeding or different nights.¹ The ancient legal definition of night was the interval between sunset and sunrise; but from a very early date a different signification has been given to the term night-time, as employed in the description of burglary, namely that period of the twenty-four hours during which there is not enough light from the sun—either daylight or twilight—to enable one to perceive and distinguish with reasonable accuracy the features of the countenance of another.² Or, as Blackstone³ expresses it,—“if there be daylight or *crepusculum* enough, begun or left, to discern a man’s face withal, it is no burglary.” But the prevalence of *moonlight*, however full and bright, is held to affect in no manner the question whether or not the breaking and entering were committed in the night; the law of burglary recognizing no middle space between night and day.⁴

The place. The scene of burglary at common law must be a *dwelling-house*. This term includes both the place of the actual residence of the occupant of the premises and all such other appurtenant buildings as are properly *parcel* of the main edifice. The dwelling itself must be a permanent structure intended or adapted for habitation and actually inhabited at the time—a building lived and slept in, not merely used as a place of business. It is immaterial, however, if the occupant be *temporarily* absent. Thus burglary, like arson, may be committed in the summer upon a house not then occupied but customarily inhabited as a winter residence. The dwelling includes the entire edifice, embracing a portion not used for purposes of residence—

1. 1 Hale, 551; 3 Chitty, C. L., 1106; 1 Russell, 821; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 75; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 806;

2. Coke, 3 Inst., 63; 1 Hawkins, c. 38, s. 2; 2 East, P. C., 508; 1 Gabbett, 169; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 75; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 807. In view, however, of the uncertainty of the common-law rule, the period has been expressly defined by statute in Great Britain, (by the 7 Wm. 4 & 1 Vic. c. 86, s. 4 as from 9 o’clock p. m. to 6 a. m.,) and in some of our States.

3. 4 Com., 224.

4. 1 Hale, 551; 2 East, P. C., 509; 1 Russell, 820; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 75; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 101.

s, for example, a store or shop under the same roof—provided it is occupied by the occupant of the portion lived in and not by a different person. There may, indeed, be distinct dwellings under the same roof, (as in a case of a tenement house,) as to any one of which a burglary may be committed,—an instance, however, which does not include a hotel, where the guests being more or less transient, the different apartments are not viewed as distinct dwellings but as parts of the dwelling of the landlord. As to *outbuildings*, these are held to be “parcel” of the dwelling, where, being within a reasonable distance of the habitation, they are employed for domestic purposes in connection with it—more contributory or ancillary to it, as branches of the domestic establishment.¹

The ownership or occupancy. The place must be the dwelling of another; a man cannot commit burglary of his own dwelling.² But here, as in arson, it is not essential that the tenement be lived in by the owner: it is sufficient if it be occupied as a dwelling by a tenant.³

The intent. The intent in burglary is to commit a felony, that is to say a particular felony, not merely felony in general.⁴ In the great majority of cases the act intended is the commission of larceny. That the intent has actually existed and impelled the breaking and entering is all that is required to constitute the offence: whether it be executed or not is wholly immaterial.⁵ There need not even be an *attempt* to commit the felony; the

1. On this part of the definition of burglary, see Coke, 3 Inst. 63, 64; Hale, 554-558; 1 Hawkins, c. 38, s. 12, 15; Foster, 76; 4 Black. Com. 5, 226; 3 Chitty, C. L., 1102-4, 1112-13; 2 East, P. C., 491-507; 1 Russell, 797-819; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 79-81; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 781-791; 10 G. O. 29, Dept. of the South, 1865; Do. 5, Dept. of the Platte, 70. It may be noted that neither a tent in a military camp, (compare 4 Black. Com. 226,) nor a mere warehouse at a military post, can be the subject of burglary.

2. 2 East, P. C., 506; 1 Russell, 820; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 805.

3. See *Rex v. Collet*, R. & R. 498; *State v. Ginns*, 1 N. & McC. 586; *Duston v. State*, 38 Ga. 166.

4. 1 Russell, 822, 824; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 82; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 113.

5. 2 East, P. C., 484, 509; 1 Russell, 785, 822; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 110. [It is in this point that burglary, (with intent to steal,) differs from robbery which requires that something be taken.] 1 Wharton, C. L. § 812.

mere breaking and entering, with the intent to commit it, completing the crime.¹

Larceny—Definition. Larceny may be defined as—A taking away of personal property from the possession of the owner, without his consent, with intent to appropriate the same. As will be illustrated in proceeding, it is a trespass with a distinctive criminal *animus*.²

The taking. This must be (1) an actual substantial taking of some thing by physical force;³ an attempt to take, or an intention to take not carried out, will not suffice.⁴ There must be force because the taking is a trespass, but the amount or kind is immaterial, mere *legal* force being alone requisite. So the force need not be wholly manual or personal; the instrument by which it is exerted being also immaterial.⁵ (2) It must include an actual *removal* of the thing from its place; in other words there must be not only a *caption* but also an *asportation* or "carrying away." This carrying away, however, is no more than is reasonably implied in the term *taking*, since it may consist in the slightest removal of the article from the place which it occupied while in the owner's possession. It is never necessary, to complete the removal in law, that the thief should succeed in getting away with the property.⁶ (3) The taking must be from the actual or con-

1. In *People v. Shaber*, 32 Cal. 36, it was held that the existence of an intent to commit larceny made the breaking and entering a burglary, although the building contained nothing of which a larceny could be committed—was in fact empty.

2. See 1 Hawkins, c. 33, s. 2; 4 Black. Com., 229; 2 East, P. C., 552, 554; 3 Chitty, C. L., 917; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 862; 1 Bishop, C. L. § 566; 2 Id. § 758.

3. Coke, 3 Inst., 107; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 804.

4. See *Reg. v. Brooks*, 8 C. & P. 295.

5. *Reg. v. Firth*, 11 Cox, 234; *Com. v. Shaw*, 4 Allen, 308, (cases of abstracting gas by secretly attaching a pipe to the main supply pipe of a gas company;) *Reg. v. White*, 6 Cox, 213; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 924. So, the taking may be effected by means of an innocent agent, as a young child employed for the purpose. 1 Hale, 514; 2 East, C. P., 555.

6. Coke, 3 Inst., 108; 1 Hawkins, c. 33, s. 18; 1 Hale, 508; 4 Black. Com., 231; 2 East, P. C., 555; 3 Chitty, C. L., 925, 943; 2 Russell, 5; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 154; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 923; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 794, 795. The removal being completed, the immediate *return* of the property to the owner will not render the act any the less a larceny. 3 Greenl. Ev. § 156; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 796. "The fact that a thief restores an

structive possession of the owner.¹ For one to appropriate property of another which is in his own possession, because of having been committed to him as a bailee, in trust, is not larceny but embezzlement.² (4) The taking must be *invito domino*, or without the owner's consent; *i. e.* without his consent to the taking of the article as *property*.³ he may consent to the transfer of the *possession*, as to a servant or agent for safe-keeping,⁴ without affecting the nature of a conversion by the latter, the possession being still constructively and the property wholly his own.⁵

The property. The subject of larceny must be *personal* property, and property of some recognized value. The articles taken, says Bishop,⁶ "must be of some value: unless they are, they are not property, and no wrong is committed in taking them." The doctrine of the common law that animals *feræ naturæ*, (including dogs and cats,) were of no value and therefore *nullius bona* and not subjects of larceny, has been very considerably modified by modern statute. The common-law distinction of "grand" and "petit" larceny, based upon the value of the property stolen as being greater or not greater than twelve pence, is only material to be noticed in connection with the subject of the Punishment.

The ownership. Further, to constitute larceny, the article taken must be *another's*. In the first place it must have some owner; must not be property without a legal owner, as wreck, waifs, or estrays, or other property wholly abandoned.⁷ But the ownership need not be that of the absolute or general owner, since larceny may be committed by a taking from a bailee or trustee, in whom the law, pending the bailment or other trust, vests a qualified property which is sufficient to constitute him a

article after he has been detected does not wipe out the fact that he stole it." G. C. M. O. 33, Dept. of Texas, 1885. (Gen. Stanley.)

1. 1 Hawkins, c. 33, s. 5; 2 East, P. C. 554; 2 Russell, 5; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 155, 161.

2. See under "Sixtieth Article"

3. 2 East, P. C., 665; 2 Russell, 19; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 811.

4. Or to a person for a mere temporary use not amounting to a bailment. 1 Hale, 506; 2 East, P. C., 555, 564; 2 Russell, 22.

5. See 2 East, P. C., 668; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 813.

6. 2 C. L. § 767.

7. As to the nature of such property at common law, see 1, 96; 2 Wharton, C. L. § 863; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 875, §

“special” owner as against the thief. As the thing taken must be another’s, the owner certainly cannot steal his own property; and so it is ruled that joint owners or tenants in common of personalty cannot steal the same from each other.

The Intent. To constitute larceny, the taking must be accompanied with an intent to appropriate the *property*, (in distinction from the mere possession,) to the personal use of the taker, or at least to deprive the owner of it. This intent is the gist of the crime; in its absence there may be trespass but no larceny. The intent must concur with the taking, and is complete if then entertained though afterwards abandoned. Its existence may be presumed from such circumstances as the fact of the actual conversion of the property, the manner—secret or otherwise suspicious—of the taking or disposition of the articles, the possession, not satisfactorily explained, of the thing or things stolen, the resort to means to avoid arrest or trial, as desertion by a soldier, &c. On the other hand, counter-presumptions may be deduced from such evidence as that the article was taken under a claim of title, that it was designed to be borrowed only, or that it was *found* after having been *lost* by the owner, and converted in ignorance of the real ownership.¹

The other Offences specified in the Article. These are—“Assault and battery with an intent to kill; Wounding, by shooting or stabbing, with an intent to commit murder;” and “Assault and battery with an intent to commit rape.” The second of these offences² is merely an aggravated form of the battery first mentioned.

Assault and battery defined. A battery, or assault and battery,—for the two terms are substantially equivalent, every battery including an assault,—is any unlawful violence inflicted upon a person without his or her consent. A threatening of

1. As illustrating the subject of the intent in larceny, see Coke, 3 Inst. 107, 108; 1 Hawkins, c. 33, s. 3; 1 Hale, 54, 506–509; 4 Black. Com., 31, 232; 2 Chitty, C. L., 926, 927; 2 East, P. C., 510, 655–665, 694, 698; 2 Russell, 7, 9, 11, 12, 17, 18, 123; Wills, Circum. Ev., 47–50, 56, 57; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 157, 159, 169; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 883–913; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 840–851.

2. This attempt is in substance made punishable as a specific offence by the British statute of 1 Vic., c. 85, and by similar statutes in several of our States. See *Wall v. State*, 23 Ind. 150.

violence, or attempt or offer to exert force against another will not suffice, since this would be no more than an *assault*—the assault which is only preliminary to a battery. The force employed must be not merely aimed at but **must reach the person or his dress**; still, though some impact is essential, a mere touching of the body of the party assailed will satisfy the legal definition.¹ It is obvious, however, that a battery, when the expression of a homicidal intent or intent to ravish, will in general be of a vehement character.

Wounding by shooting or stabbing. The English cases fully explain that a *wound*, in the sense of the statutes making punishable batteries of this sort, must consist at least in a breaking or division of the continuity of the skin; that, to constitute a wound, not merely the cuticle but the internal and entire skin of the body must be pierced or broken, and that a scratch is therefore not a wound: that blood should flow is not however held *essential* to complete a wound.²

The term "*wounding by shooting*" removes from consideration all the cases of *shooting* at without hitting, which, being merely cases of *assault*, are not in point here where the physical act must consist in a battery. Shooting is, properly, the discharging of a loaded gun, pistol or other fire-arm. It is not absolutely necessary that the arm should be loaded with a ball, bullet, or shot, since the discharge of a gun loaded with powder and wadding only, if fired very close to a person, may inflict a dangerous wound.³ That the arm was only thus loaded, however, would ordinarily go to indicate the absence of a murderous intent.

"Stabbing" may be defined to be the inflicting of an incised wound by thrusting with a pointed instrument, in contradistinction to a cutting made by a sharp-edged instrument, or an injury of any sort done with a blunt weapon.⁴

1. See 1 Hawkins, c. 62, s. 2; 1 Russell, 751; 3 Greenl. Ev. § 60; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 617; U. S. v. Hand, 2 Washington, 437.

2. Rex v. Payne, 4 C. & P. 558; Moriarty v. Brooks, 6 Id. 686; Rex v. Sheard, 7 Id. 846; Reg. v. Smith, 8 Id. 175; Reg. v. McLoughlin, Id. 35; Rex v. Wood, 1 Mood. 278; Rex v. Withers, Id. 294; Rex v. Becket, M. & Rob. 526.

3. See Rex v. Kitchen, R. & R. 95.

4. See King v. Weston, 1 Leach, 247; Rex v. Oxford, 5 C. & P. 925; 1 Russell, 723.

Intent to kill. This general intent, first specified in the Article, includes both an intent to commit murder, (the intent designated as that of the offence of "Wounding," &c.,) and an intent to commit manslaughter.

Intent to commit murder. This is, properly, a specific intent to murder a particular person, not an intent to commit murder in general.¹ It is essential to the proof of it that it should appear from the testimony that if a killing had resulted from the battery, the same would have been murder in law.² It may be evidenced by such circumstances as a declaration of such intent by the accused, his violent conduct at the time of the offence, the use of a deadly weapon, the grave character of the injury inflicted, the existence of previous enmity between the parties, or other motive adequate to account for the act, &c.

Intent to commit manslaughter. This, which is an intent comparatively rarely entertained, may be induced under circumstances of great provocation operating suddenly, or by the passion and excitement incidental to a mutual fight between the assailant and the party attacked. It can be imputed only where the killing, if death had ensued, would have been manslaughter in law. Thus it cannot be deduced where it is apparent from the evidence that the killing would have been justifiable or excusable homicide.

Intent to commit rape. This must appear from the evidence to have been such as that the accompanying battery, if effectuated, would have amounted to the legal crime of rape.³ It must be inferable from all the circumstances that the design of the assailant, in the battery, was to gratify his passions at all events and notwithstanding the opposition offered—to overpower

1. See *Morgan v. State*, 13 Sm. & M. 242; 1 Bishop, C. L. § 729-731. But in *People v. Torres*, 38 Cal. 141, it is held that if A, intending to murder B, shoots C by mistake and wounds him, he is guilty of assault with intent to murder C.

2. *Rex v. Mitton*, 1 East, 411; *Rex v. Payne*, 4 C. & P. 558; *State v. Neal*, 37 Maine, 468; *State v. Williams*, 3 Foster, 321; *State v. Reed*, 40 Vt. 603; *McCoy v. State*, 3 Eng. 451; *Hopkinson v. People*, 18 Ill. 265; *Dains v. State*, 2 Hump. 439; *State v. Anderson*, 2 Over. 8; *Kunkle v. State*, 32 Ind. 220; *Jackson v. State*, 51 Ga. 402.

3. *Charles v. State*, 6 Eng. 390; 1 Wharton, C. L. § 181; 1 Bishop, C. L. § 731.

resistance by all the force necessary to the successful accomplishment of his purpose.¹ If this design appears to have been once fully entertained in connection with the battery, the fact that the party afterwards voluntarily desisted, or changed his mind, will not affect the result of the proof.² The intent will be demonstrated by the character and degree of the violence employed, the language, threats, demonstrations, and entire conduct of the accused, the place, time, and other circumstances of the attempt, &c.

Charge. For the forms of charging the several crimes made punishable by this Article, the student is referred to the Appendix.

Finding. Certain special forms of finding may be noticed as allowable upon military trials had under this Article. Thus, (as remarked in Chapter XIX,) under a charge of murder the court may find guilty of manslaughter only; under a charge for robbery, he finding may be guilty of larceny; under a charge for burglary in which it is alleged that a larceny—the crime intended—was actually committed, the accused may be found guilty of larceny;³ under charges for murder, manslaughter, mayhem and robbery, the court may convict the accused of assault and battery with intent to commit the crime, or assault and battery only—to the prejudice of good order and military discipline; under a charge of arson, the party may be convicted of an attempt to commit arson—to the prejudice, &c.; under charges for assault and battery with intent to commit murder, manslaughter, or rape, the accused may be found guilty of assault and battery only.⁴

A court-martial cannot properly find an accused guilty of a *lesser degree* of the crime charged,—as guilty of murder in the second degree under a charge of “murder,” since,⁵—(as hereto-

1. 1 Russell, 692; 1 Bishop, C. L. § 731.

2. 1 Bishop, C. L. § 733.

3. See 1 Bishop, C. L. § 796, and cases cited.

4. In these findings, the rule of military law that a court, under a charge of a specific offence, may always find a *disorder* included therein, and within the contemplation of Art. 62,) will justify the court where perhaps the strict rules governing common-law verdicts would fail to do so.

5. This irregular finding was made in a few cases during the late war. See G. O. 234, 246, of 1863. But see DIGEST, 341.

fore stated,) the military code does not specify the specific crimes enumerated in this Article.

Punishment. The Article concludes with the following junction:—"and the punishment in a case shall not be less than the punishment provided, for the crime committed in the State, Territory, or District, in which it has been committed."

Construction—"Shall not be less than," &c. These words, in direct connection with the sentence shall not be less than the punishment provided, evidently authorize the court-martial to impose punishment shall, (in part at least,) be thus authorized. Such is certainly the construction. But the Article, in thus fixing a *minimum* punishment to be adjudged by the court-martial, leaves it to the court to *add to* such punishment if it appears in addition be practicable. Thus, where the penalty is imprisonment for a certain amount, (or both,) the court-martial may impose an imprisonment of at least as much as the amount, (or both,) or may impose such penalty or penalties at will; its power being without limit except in so far as it is limited by a principle analogous to that of the civil judge, in addition to the penalty provided by the statute (whether or not itself enlarged,) a further punishment of a military character appropriate to the case, such as suspension, charge, reduction, forfeiture, suspension, &c.

Where indeed the civil statute, in

1. Where the punishment is in fact less than that authorized but inoperative. DIGEST, 28. The court-martial has sometimes imposed punishments inferior to those provided by the law, and has frequently been disapproved, in cases where the court has been reconvened for the correction of the sentence. O. 19, Northern Dept., 1864, (larceny;) (do;) Do. 19, Dept. of Tenn., 1866, (do;) 1865, (burglary;) Do. 43, Dept. of La., 1865.

2. See Chapter XX.

3. *Ex parte* Mason, 105 U. S. 696.

ishment, fixes a *maximum* and a *minimum* for the same, as where it assigns to the offender confinement in a penitentiary for a term not less than a stated number of months or greater than a stated number of years, the Article will be satisfied by a sentencing of the accused to the *minimum* term thus established, while of course even the *maximum* may legally be exceeded. But where—as is sometimes done—the statute merely establishes a *maximum*, as where it enacts that the offender shall be punished by imprisonment for a term *not to exceed* a certain number of years, or by a *fine not to exceed* in amount a certain sum named, then, as any degree of the punishment within such limit is legal, the court-martial is without any restriction whatever, under the Article, as to the term or amount which it shall impose by its sentence.

“For the like offence.” Like means same or similar, and in general the “like” offence in the local statute will readily be distinguished. Where the statute establishes two or more *degrees* of an offence, with different punishments for the several degrees, it will be sufficient for the court-martial to impose the punishment belonging to the degree to which the offence found by it is “like” or corresponds; though, as military law does not recognize degrees of crime, it may of course, in its discretion, impose the punishment belonging to a higher or the highest degree.

“State, Territory, or District.” Of these terms, “District” evidently refers to the District of Columbia.

Measure of the Punishment in General. In adjusting the measure of the punishment under the Article, the court-martial, while strictly observing the specific injunction last noticed, and considering—generally—the estimate of the criminality of the offence as indicated by the penalty or scale of penalties assigned to it by the laws of the State, &c., may well also consult, as a guide to assist its judgment, the *United States’* statute, where any exists making punishable the particular offence. Thus, of the crimes enumerated in the Article, murder, arson, and rape are made punishable with death, and manslaughter, mayhem, robbery and larceny, by fine and imprisonment, when committed at sea or in places within the exclusive jurisdiction of the *United States’* courts.¹

1. See Secs. 5339, 5343, 5345, 5348, 5356, 5385, 5456, Rev. Sts. The crime described is indeed not always the common-law offence, and these statutes are not in general to be referred to for *definitions*.

XXIV. THE FIFTY-NINTH ARTICLE.

[SURRENDER TO THE CIVIL AUTHORITIES OF MILITARY PERSONS CHARGED WITH CIVIL OFFENCES.]

"ART. 59. *When any officer or soldier is accused of a capital crime, or of any offence against the person or property of any citizen of any of the United States, which is punishable by the laws of the land, the commanding officer, and the officers of the regiment, troop, battery, company, or detachment, to which the person so accused belongs, are required, except in time of war, upon application duly made by or in behalf of the party injured, to use their utmost endeavors to deliver him over to the civil magistrate, and to aid the officers of justice in apprehending and securing him, in order to bring him to trial. If, upon such application, any officer refuses or willfully neglects, except in time of war, to deliver over such accused person to the civil magistrates, or to aid the officers of justice in apprehending him, he shall be dismissed from the service.*"

Principle and Purpose of the Article. This provision, which, derived originally from a corresponding British Article, has undergone but a single material change, presently to be noticed, since its first appearance in our code of 1776, proceeds upon certain general principles well defined in our law. Of these, the fundamental principle of the distinctness and independence of the two sovereignties of the United States and of the separate States, as declared by the Supreme Court in *Ableman v. Booth*,¹ has been applied to the relations between the authorities of the States and the U. S. military authorities in the more recent adjudication of the same court in the case of *U. S. v. Tarble*,² and specially also in the leading case in Iowa of *Ex parte McRoberts*.³ But, notwithstanding this independence of the military

1. 21 Howard, 516. In this case Chief Justice Taney observes: "The powers of the General Government and of the State, although both exist and are exercised within the same territorial limits, are yet separate and distinct sovereignties acting separately and independently of each other, within their respective spheres. And the sphere of action appropriated to the United States is as far beyond the reach of the judicial process issued by a State judge or a State court as if the line of division was traced by landmarks and monuments visible to the eye."

2. 13 Wallace, 397.

3. 16 Iowa, 600.

within its peculiar field, the further principle is uniformly ad of the subordination, in time of peace and on common d, of the military authority to the civil, and of the consequence-amenability of military persons, in their civil capacity, to civil jurisdiction, for breaches of the criminal law of the land.⁵ In recognition of these principles, and to facilitate the exercise of such jurisdiction, that this Article has been enacted. It is in form an injunction upon commanding officers, &c., its principal purpose, as expressed by the court in the case of *McRoberts* is "to aid the civil authorities in the administration of justice and to place it out of the power of a criminal to escape the civil penalties of his acts by entering the military service, obtaining its protection while in it." At the same time, by imposing a condition to be complied with on the part of civil officers and persons, and investing military commanders with a reasonable discretion in accepting their applications, it protects the military from false arrest and arbitrary prosecution.

Reason of its Operation—Construction of Terms.
The occasion upon which the duty specified in the Article is imposed upon the officers indicated, is the application for the order to the civil authorities of an officer or soldier accused

see *Dow v. Johnson*, 100 U. S. 169; *Ex parte McRoberts*, 165 U. S. 501; *Rawle on the Const.*, 161; *Halleck, Int. Law*, 393; *VI Opins. U. S.*, 415, 417, 451; *Tytler*, 153; *1 McArthur*, 38; *DIGEST*, 29, 215,

Journals of Congress during the Revolution contain sundry assertions of this principle. Thus in one case, (2 Jour. 572,) it was Resolved—"That all military officers and soldiers in the service of the United States are, and of right ought to be, amenable to the laws of the State in which they reside in common with other citizens." In another case, (3 Jour. 77,) it is recited that—"Whereas complaint has been made to Congress that brigadier count Pulaski has resisted the civil authority of this State," (Pennsylvania,) "Resolved that the board of war require his personal attendance at the war office; * * * it be the fixed determination of Congress to discourage and suppress opposition to civil authority by any officer in their service." And in (Id. p. 79,) the board are "directed to inform brigadier Pulaski that it is the duty of every military officer in the service of these States to obey obedience to any process issuing from any court, judge, or magistrate within any of the United States." In a third instance, earlier in the same session, (2 Jour. 68,) it was Resolved by Congress that a regimental adjutant charged with the murder of a citizen, "be delivered to the civil authorities of Pennsylvania that he may receive his trial."

6 Iowa, 603. And see *Samuel*, 489.

of a criminal offence. The circumstances under which the Article is intended to be operative will appear from a reference to the terms of the provision.

"Any officer or soldier." This designation clearly refers to officers and soldiers under present military command and control.¹ Military persons not within such control, as *persons on furlough or leave of absence*, or deserters, could scarcely have been contemplated. The Article not applying to such parties, it would follow that the civil authorities would be entitled to arrest and bring to justice a person of such class in the same manner as any *civilian*, *i. e.* without application to the military authorities. This was indeed the precise point ruled in *Ex parte McRoberts* already cited—a case of a soldier absent on furlough—in which it is said that such a soldier "is not in the custody or control of his commanding officer, and may therefore be arrested as any other person, and no conflict can arise." The fact that his leave of absence may be recalled 'cannot, it is remarked by the court, affect his status while it continues in force: so long as it is *not* recalled, he remains without the military jurisdiction.'² In the further case of Private Rosenback,³ who, having been arrested, while on furlough, by the civil authorities of Wisconsin, on a charge of murder, in 1864, petitioned the Department Commander to be taken out of the hands of said authorities and tried by court-martial, it was determined by Gen. Pope as follows:—"The petitioner, at the time the crime is charged to have been committed, was on furlough and absent from his regiment in the State in which he enlisted, and was at the time acting in no sense in his military capacity. He was substantially in the same position before the law with any person not in the military service, and equally responsible to the civil authorities for any offence against the laws of the State of Wisconsin. His case is not one which would justify the interposition of the military authorities, and his petition is therefore refused."

"Accused." This word is construed by Samuel⁴ as meaning regularly charged on oath before a civil magistrate, as best evi-

1. See G. O. 87, Dept. of the Mo., 1863.

2. As to the *jurisdiction* of a court-martial over an offence committed by an officer or soldier on leave or furlough, see Chapter VIII.

3. G. O. 29, Dept. of the Northwest, 1864.

4. Page 491.

denced by the warrant of the latter or some other process issued by him. This construction is supported by the fact that the Article provides in terms for the delivery of the accused person "to the civil magistrate" and for his apprehension by "the officers of justice," as if it were contemplated that a judge or justice should issue a writ or summons requiring the party to be brought before him, and a sheriff or constable should be present to serve it. Such indeed would be the regular course of proceeding, and one advisable in general to be pursued before a surrender is applied for under this Article. Nothing *more* certainly can be required; an indictment, for instance, can never be necessary. The proceeding indicated, however, is not *essential*; the term "accused" is not necessarily to be construed in a technical sense; and a specific charge of an offence contemplated by the Article, formally made in the "*application*," may be accepted as sufficient in the absence of legal process.¹

"A capital crime." These words are considered to be qualified, equally with those which follow, ("any offence," &c.,) by the words "punishable by the laws of the land." The capital crime here intended is thus properly a crime made punishable with death² by the laws of the State, &c., in which it was committed.

"Any offence against the person or property of any citizen of any of the United States." Here are evidently intended crimes, other than capital, involving violence against the person, as manslaughter, mayhem, robbery, and assault and battery, together with such as affect a person in his property, as burglary, larceny, forgery, embezzlement and malicious mischief. Offences against society or the public, and offences against government, (except where immediately affecting individual persons or their property,) could scarcely have been contemplated.

The term "*citizen*" as used in this clause may be deemed to apply to a military person equally as to a civilian. Such a person, however, would rarely have recourse to proceedings under

1. In Jeffers' case, (II Opins. 15,) Atty. Gen. Wirt does not intimate that the issuing of a warrant is *necessary*.

2. As to the definition of the term "capital" as employed in the Articles of war, see Chapter XVIII—"Testimony by Deposition."

this Article where the offence committed against him was one cognizable and adequately punishable at military law.¹

The description "*any one of the United States*" may also be taken in a general sense, and be deemed to apply, in spirit at least, to Territories as well as to States.²

"Punishable by the laws of the land." The term "laws of the land" has been construed in a series of adjudged cases, and uniformly explained to mean acts of the law-making power, that is to say statute law of the State, (or Territory,) in contradistinction to municipal ordinances, by-laws, or regulations of police.³ The minor derelictions to which penalties are attached by the latter are clearly not intended to become the subject of accusations under the present Article, but only such offences as are made punishable by the general criminal code.

The fact that the crime against the State may also constitute or involve a military offence punishable by the military law cannot affect the right of the citizen, (or of the public,) to initiate proceedings under the Article.⁴

The right, it may be added, continues until the prosecution for the offence becomes barred by the civil statute of limitations and the offence is thus no longer "punishable." That the offence was committed by the accused before he entered the military service cannot impair the exercise of the right, provided the civil limitation has not taken effect.⁵

It is to be added that, where the crime or offence of the officer or soldier was committed within a military reservation or other locality, over which, by the cession of its jurisdiction by the State or otherwise, *exclusive jurisdiction* is vested in the United States,

1. "In ordinary cases, the party injured, if he be himself of the army, either as officer or soldier, will consider that the rights and the interests of the service are injured in the injury done to himself, and will prefer to have the guilty party dealt with by military law, and will not seek to have the civil magistrate interpose." VI Opins. At. Gen., 426.

2. The Article is not intended to apply to cases of offences committed against the laws of the *United States*. See DIGEST, 30, 31.

3. *Vanzant v. Waddell*, 2 Yerg. 270; *State Bank v. Cooper*, Id. 605; *Horn v. People*, 26 Mich. 228; *Greene v. Briggs*, 1 Curtis, 311, 325; *Ex parte Bright*, 1 Utah, 145; *State v. Pollock*, A. & N. Jour., Sept. 15, 1877; *Kalloch v. Superior Court*, 56 Cal. 229; DIGEST, 30.

4. VI Opins. At. Gen., 415, 416. See *post* as to concurrent jurisdiction.

5. G. O. 29, N. West, 1864; DIGEST, 30.

the Article does not apply; the criminal act not being one "punishable by the laws of the land," as the term is there employed. In such a case, if deemed expedient that the accused be tried by a civil tribunal, the military authorities will concur with the U. S. Marshal and District Attorney with a view to his trial before the U. S. District Court.

Form of Proceeding. The Article requires that, to obtain the surrender of the accused by the military authorities, there shall be an "*application duly made by or in behalf of the party injured.*" The application, which should be in writing, will properly set forth that a specific offence named, of the character indicated in the Article,¹ has been committed, or is charged and believed to have been committed, by a certain officer or soldier of the command, and that his delivery to the civil authorities is required with a view to his trial, or in terms to such effect.

The application will regularly be subscribed and presented by the party himself, or, for him, by an authorized representative. Where the application is not personal, the commander should satisfy himself that it is made by the authority or with the acquiescence of the injured party, (if living,) and not as the gratuitous motion of a mere stranger. It is observed by Attorney General Cushing that a civil magistrate has no authority *as such* to demand the accused; the law giving him no "right of voluntary and officious interference in these matters;"² he cannot therefore, it is added, make the requisition, "unless moved so to do by the party injured."³ In a case of *homicide*, however, where there can be no personal application, "the entire society," says Mr. Cushing in the same opinion, "is the party injured;" and "the public prosecutor or grand jury," as taking the place of the party

1. "It is not enough to tell him" (the commander) "that *some* offence has been committed; he must know what the specific offence is in order that he may see whether it is an offence 'punishable by the known laws of the land.' The application, according to the Article, must be duly made to him; and, in my opinion, no application is duly made, which does not state the specific offence so as to enable the commander to see distinctly that the case contemplated by the Article has arisen." Atty. Gen. Wirt, II Opins. 14-15. And see Samuel, 492; DIGEST, 29.

2. VI Opins., 421.

3. Id., 426; State v. Pollock, *ante*.

and representing the public, may properly make the demand: or it may be made by any private person, since, in such a case, "it is the right of any and of every citizen to move the courts of the country to apply the laws of the land to the criminal."¹

Whether or not, however, the application be "duly made" is a matter wholly within the discretion of the military commander to determine. If he thinks proper,—as where the original form is not sufficiently explicit, or he is not assured that it is presented in good faith,²—he may require it to be made more specific,³ or to be sworn to, or to be supported by the affidavits or statements of other and credible persons, or to be accompanied by a warrant of arrest.⁴ On the other hand, under circumstances justifying it, as in a time of emergency, or where the facts are notorious or fully within his own knowledge, he may dispense with a formal application or even accept an oral one. So where a warrant has been duly issued and is duly tendered, he may accept the same as made in behalf of the injured party, and as constituting of itself a satisfactory and sufficient application within the purview of the Article.

Illegality of Arrest or Surrender without due Application made. The application, says Cushing,⁶ "is the necessary antecedent condition of the right of the civil authorities to act." So, in the case of McRoberts,⁷ it is held by the court that, in view of the enactment of Art. 59, "it becomes the duty of the civil officer to stop at the boundary line between the two jurisdictions, and there demand of the military officers the delivery of the accused. * * * The soldier, while he continues in the actual military service, cannot be arrested on civil process except in the manner provided by the Article." It follows that when an ar-

1. VI Opins., 422.

2. Id., 426. And see Hough, 224.

3. See VI Opins., 423, 428.

4. See II Opins. At. Gen. 415.

5. See Samuel, 492.

6. VI Opins., 421.

7. 16 Iowa, 603, 604. But the fact that the arrest is actually made without the proper application cannot affect the jurisdiction of the State court in the case. *In re O'Connor*, 37 Wisc. 379.

st is made without a previous demand, or after a demand not
 ily made in accordance with the Article and therefore not ac-
 ded to, the law is violated, the act is a trespass, and it is the
 ght as well as the duty of the commander, (who owes it to his
 mmand to protect them from illegal seizure,¹ and to the United
 ates to maintain its just authority,) to retake the prisoner from
 e custody of the civil officials and remand him to his former
 atus.² In so doing the commander is entitled and properly re-
 quired to employ such military force as may be suitable and suf-
 ficient to effect such purpose in an orderly manner. It need
 ardly be remarked that the law is quite otherwise where the offi-
 r or soldier has become chargeable with a misdemeanor or dis-
 derly conduct in violation of a city ordinance or police regula-
 on. Here, as already indicated, he may be apprehended where
 und, and tried and punished, without previous recourse to the
 ilitary authorities, nor are the latter authorized to interfere with
 e due course of law in his case.³

It may be added that while the civil authorities cannot legally
 rest, nor the military authorities properly surrender, an accused
 ficer or soldier except as provided in the Article, so, such ac-
 sed person cannot in general properly be allowed voluntarily
 surrender himself. However willing and ready he may be to
 eld to the course of civil justice, it is not for him to decide
 ethoder it is proper for him to do so, but for the commander
 one. He should therefore await due proceedings under the
 rticle and the orders of his commander thereon.⁴ If indeed the
 cused party does, of his own motion, actually appear before the
 agistrate and submit himself to the civil authority, his act gives
 the latter the legal custody of his person, and his commitment,
 default of bail, will be a legal and regular proceeding.⁵

1. "The commanding officer owes a duty to the men under his com-
 mand—he owes them the duty of protection, so long as they continue
 the faithful discharge of their duty. This duty is first in point of
 re, and highest in point of obligation. This Article gives him no
 thority to withdraw that protection and deliver over his men to others,
 cept in the case which it describes." II Opins. At. Gen., 14.

2. See *Ex parte Bright*, 1 Utah, 151; DIGEST, 29.

3. DIGEST, 30.

4. DIGEST, 31.

5. See VI Opins. At. Gen., 422.

Duty and Liability of Officers under the Article. The duty imposed by the Article upon commanding officers and the officers under them,¹ is required of them in all cases except such as may arise *in time of war*. This exception, first introduced into the Article in 1874, was doubtless suggested by the fact that by the provision of the Act of March 3, 1863, now incorporated in the code as Art. 58, a special jurisdiction, concurrent with that of the courts of the States, &c., had been conferred upon military courts, *in time of war, &c.*, for the trial of the principal crimes made punishable by the general criminal law.

The requirement that officers shall use their "utmost endeavors," &c., is of course to be understood in a reasonable sense and with reference to the circumstances of the particular case.² Thus if the accused person is not within military control because absent as a deserter or on furlough, nothing more can in general be required of the commander, &c., than to furnish to the civil authority such information in regard to his present whereabouts and the prospect of his return as may be possessed.

If the accused, having been once duly delivered to the civil official, escapes and returns to his military station, he is not to be brought to trial by court-martial as for a military offence, but should properly be remanded to the civil authorities, or held subject to a renewed application by them for his surrender.³

As the commander, &c., is required by the Article "to aid the officers of justice" not only in "apprehending" the accused, but also in "securing him," he should properly furnish such officers, when they are not supplied with an adequate police force, with a guard of soldiers sufficient for the purpose of safely conducting the prisoner to his destination.

1. That the duty is mainly devolved upon the *commanders*, the province of inferior officers principally being to carry out their orders—see Samuel, 490-493; Hough, 221-224; Clode, 98; O'Brien, 119-120: II Opins. At. Gen., 14. It is remarked by Mr. Wirt, in the opinion last cited, that the Article is "entirely inapplicable to the *President*," and that no demand can be made upon him under it. And see I Opins., 244.

2. See Samuel, 493; O'Brien, 119-120. Hough, (p. 224,) in construing the term "utmost endeavors," says:—"Therefore concealing or harboring the accused, or giving him the means of escape, or aiding or in any manner assisting therein, or conniving at or even advising such escape, would be criminal acts, and * * * would amount to the not using the best endeavors."

3. G. O. 7, Dept. of the South, 1871; DIGEST, 31.

Prior assumption of Military Jurisdiction as affecting the interposition of the Civil Authorities. Where a civil and a military court have concurrent jurisdiction of an offence committed by a military person, the court which is the first to take cognizance of the same is entitled to proceed;¹ and although the precedence of the civil jurisdiction is favored in the law, yet if this jurisdiction does not assert itself until the other has been duly assumed in the case, its exercise may properly be postponed until the other has been exhausted. Upon the commission of such an offence, the military authorities will in general properly wait a reasonable time for the civil authorities to take action;² but if, before the latter have initiated proceedings under the Article, the party is duly brought to trial by court-martial for the military offence involved in his act, the commander may, and ordinarily will, properly decline to accede to an application for his surrender to the civil jurisdiction until at least the military trial has been completed and the judgment of the court has been finally acted upon.³

XXV. THE SIXTIETH ARTICLE.

[FRAUDS, EMBEZZLEMENT, &C.]

"ART. 60. Any person in the military service of the United States who makes or causes to be made any claim against the United States, or any officer thereof, knowing such claim to be false or fraudulent; or

Who presents or causes to be presented to any person in the civil or military service thereof, for approval or payment, any claim against the United States or any officer thereof, knowing such claim to be false or fraudulent; or

1. VI Opins. At. Gen., 414; DIGEST, 31.

2. It is indicated in *Ex parte* Mason, 105 U. S. 699, that where the civil authorities do not presently apply for the accused under the Article, it is the duty of the military authorities to proceed to exercise their jurisdiction.

3. See remarks of Atty. Gen. Cushing in *Steiner's Case*, VI Opins. 23, and in *Howe's Case*, Id., 513-14; also DIGEST, 31.

Who enters into any agreement or conspiracy to defraud the United States by obtaining, or aiding others to obtain, the advance or payment of any false or fraudulent claim; or

Who, for the purpose of obtaining, or aiding others to obtain approval, allowance, or payment of any claim against the United States or against any officer thereof, makes or uses, or procures or advises the making or use of, any writing, or other paper, knowing the same to contain any false or fraudulent statement; or

Who, for the purpose of obtaining, or aiding others to obtain approval, allowance, or payment of any claim against the United States or any officer thereof, makes, or procures or advises the making of, any oath to any fact or to any writing or other paper, knowing such oath to be false; or

Who, for the purpose of obtaining, or aiding others to obtain approval, allowance, or payment of any claim against the United States or any officer thereof, forges or counterfeits, or procures or advises the forging or counterfeiting of, any signature upon any writing or other paper, or uses, or procures or advises the use of any such signature, knowing the same to be forged or counterfeited; or

Who, having charge, possession, custody or control of any military or other property of the United States, furnished or intended to be used for the military service thereof, knowingly delivers, or causes to be delivered, to any person having authority to receive the same, an amount thereof less than that for which he receives a certificate of receipt; or

Who, being authorized to make or deliver any certificate of receipt of any property of the United States, furnished or intended for the military service thereof, makes, or delivers to any person, such writing, without having full knowledge of the contents of the statements therein contained, and with intent to defraud the United States; or

Who steals, embezzles, knowingly and willfully misappropriates or applies to his own use or benefit, or wrongfully or knowingly or disposes of any ordnance, arms, equipments, ammunition, clothing, subsistence stores, money, or other property of the United States furnished or intended for the military service thereof; or

Who knowingly purchases, or receives in pledge for any obligation or indebtedness, from any soldier, officer, or other person who is a part of or employed in said forces or service, any ordnance

arms, equipments, ammunition, clothing, subsistence stores, or other property of the United States, such soldier, officer, or other person not having lawful right to sell or pledge the same,

Shall, on conviction thereof, be punished by fine or imprisonment, or by such other punishment as a court-martial may adjudge. And if any person, being guilty of any of the offences aforesaid, while in the military service of the United States, receives his discharge, or is dismissed from the service, he shall continue to be liable to be arrested and held for trial and sentence by a court-martial, in the same manner and to the same extent as if he had not received such discharge nor been dismissed."

The Original Act. This statute, which, as an Article of war, appears for the first time in the revised code of 1874, consists of secs. 1 and 2 of the Act of March 2, 1863, c. 67, entitled "An Act to prevent and punish frauds upon the Government of the United States." In transferring the statute to the Revised Statutes, the several provisions have been condensed and simplified but no material change has been made.

The legislation of 1863 was intended to bring to punishment a numerous class of frauds which the experience of the war had already shown to be likely to be committed during such a period in connection mainly with claims upon the Treasury, official accounts, and the disposition and custody of the public moneys and other property of the United States. Enacted mainly with a view to the circumstances of the existing state of war, the provisions of the Act were nevertheless general in terms, and thus have survived to the present time.

The Act, which was of a comprehensive character, provided not only for the trial of military and naval persons charged with the offences specified in the first section, but also for the prosecution, both by *qui tam* action and criminal proceedings, of civilians similarly accused. Its provisions, as set forth in the present Article, are also embraced in the Fourteenth of the Articles for the Navy, and, as constituting a part of the general penal law applicable to civil offenders, are to be found contained in Secs. 3490-3494, 5438 and 5439 of the Revised Statutes.

The separate paragraphs of the Article will be briefly considered; the *ninth* only, as the most comprehensive and important, being dwelt upon more at length.

The First Six Paragraphs. These relate to fraud claims against the United States,¹ including the making, sending,² &c., of any such claims; the entering into corrupt agreements and combinations to defraud the government by the execution of such claims; and the making, using, &c., of writings, the forging, &c., of signatures, and the taking, & false oaths, for the purpose of obtaining the payment or approval of such claims. It will be observed that it is not necessary to constitute an offence under any of these paragraphs that the fraudulent claim should have actually been induced to be paid, or even *allowed* on the part of the United States.

Paragraphs 1, 2 and 4.—*Fraudulent claims for officers' pay.* It is under these paragraphs that charges for attempts by officers to secure double or repeated payments of the same offence familiarly known as the *duplicating* of pay rolls—have been frequently laid.³

Thus, where an officer who has sold his claim for pay for a certain month, and assigned the pay rolls or accounts, which are the evidence of the right to receive the same, to a banker, creditor, or other party, subsequently himself presents, (or cause to be presented for him, by an attorney, a military subordinate or other person,) to the paymaster, a personal claim for the same.

1. In the description of these claims as claims "against the United States or any officer thereof," the concluding words are without significance and surplusage. A claim against an official, (as such,) or department, of the government is necessarily a claim against the United States. The statute does not contemplate *personal* claims upon officers.

2. That making and presenting are distinct offences under this statute, so that the making of a false claim may be completed in a distant State while the presenting of the same may be committed at Washington, D. C.,—see *Ex parte Shaffenburg*, 4 Dillon, 271.

3. DIGEST, 33. And see instances in G. C. M. O. 219 of 1865; Do. 56 of 1867; Do. 61, 72, of 1869; Do. 11, 22, of 1870; Do. 42, 57, of 1874; Do. 25, 50, 104, of 1875; Do. 37 of 1876; Do. 40 of 1878; Do. 32, 45, 62, 63, of 1883; Do. 8, 9, of 1884; Do. 23 of 1885. The opinion has already been expressed that this offence is not properly laid under Art. 13, which is viewed as referring to the signing of a certificate for the pay not of the signer but of some other officer, &c. The offence, however, is sometimes, and properly as it involves a dishonor, (see G. C. M. O. 28 of 1872; Do. 59 of 1875,) charged as a violation of Art. 61; also, less frequently, as conduct prejudicial to discipline under Art. 62. Where a pay account is transferred before the pay is due, the officer is chargeable under the last named Article for a violation of par. 2380 of the Army Regulations. (See G. C. M. O. 28 of 1872.)

upon a new set of accounts, he is clearly chargeable with the offence set forth in the 1st and 2d paragraphs, since the claim made and presented must, as well as the second set of accounts, necessarily be false and fraudulent. Where indeed the actual transfer is not absolute or unconditional, but by way of general security only, and is upon the condition that the assignee shall not present the claim without the express authority of the officer, but the same is improperly treated by the assignee as absolute property, and, without the knowledge of the officer, is presented by and paid to the assignee; or where the officer, after the accounts first transferred, has substituted, or made arrangements to substitute, other security, and has supposed that these arrangements have accordingly been cancelled; these, or other facts, notwithstanding that the personal presentation was made in good faith, do not constitute a defence to a charge against the officer for presenting the second set of accounts. But, especially in view of the fact that the Army Regulations, par. 2380, forbid the assignment of pay before due in any case,² all such defences should be received with great caution by military courts, and unless it clearly appear that the accused, when he presented the claim, had taken such precaution that he knew, or was fully and reasonably assured, that no other presentation had been or would be made, no defence should not be accepted as sufficient.³

Again, an officer who, having once drawn or sold his pay for a certain month or months, signs and transfers further pay rolls for the same time, is chargeable with the offence specified in the 4th paragraph, since the rolls contain a "statement" known to him to be false and fraudulent, *viz.* the statement, in the printed certificate, that the amount charged in the account is "correct and true" and is "rightfully due" him.⁴

² G. C. M. O. 28 of 1872.

³ G. O. 35 of 1829, it is said of this regulation, (referred to as an order of June, 1827,) that its effect was "to remove all pretences of mistake and defence on the ground of mistake and accident."

⁴ See remarks of Secretary of War in G. C. M. O. 45 of 1883.

See also a late instance of this offence in G. C. M. O. 52 of 1877; also, G. O. 25 of 1875, a case of a false statement on a pay account that the officer had served ten years. And see instances of false statements or certificates, in connection with claims other than for pay, in G. O. 18 of 1870; G. C. M. O. 152, 614, of 1865; Do. 47 of 1870. [The three last cases of false certificates furnished *contractors* in support of fraudulent claims by them to be paid under contracts not duly executed.]

Other included claims. Under these three paragraphs also are properly laid charges based upon the knowingly making, &c., of a variety of other fraudulent claims against the United States. Thus the General Orders contain cases of charges under this Article for the presenting by officers of false claims for disbursements to government employees,¹ for disbursements in the secret service,² for horses lost in battle,³ for recruiting expenses,⁴ for transportation of public stores,⁵ for pay of soldiers on falsified muster rolls,⁶ for fuel for a detachment,⁷ &c.; also claims by soldiers for pay upon falsified discharges and final statements,⁸ claims for the reward for the arrest of deserters who have not in fact been apprehended,⁹ &c.¹⁰

Guilty knowledge the gravamen of the offence. It is not the object or purpose of the party in the transaction, but his *knowledge* that the claim is false or fraudulent¹¹ which is made

1. See G. C. M. O. 303, 605, of 1865; Do. 2 of 1868.

2. G. O. 74 of 1864.

3. G. C. M. O. 406 of 1865.

4. G. O. 67 of 1864; G. C. M. O. 131, 241, of 1864; Do. 293 of 1865; Do. 208 of 1866. And see, in this connection, cases of *Langenhin*, contractor, (G. C. M. O. 181 of 1864,) tried by court-martial for presenting fraudulent claims for subsistence and lodging furnished to recruits; and *Johnson*, government agent, (G. C. M. O. 191 of 1864,) tried by military commission for presenting similar claims for the expenses of the care of sick and wounded soldiers and prisoners, at New York.

5. See G. C. M. O. 35 of 1872.

6. G. C. M. O. 53 of 1870. And see case in Do. 395 of 1865.

7. G. C. M. O. 20 of 1868.

8. G. C. M. O. 639, 644, of 1865; Do. 39, 101, of 1866; G. O. 46, Dept. of the East, 1869; G. C. M. O. 55, Id., 1871; G. O. 16, Middle Dept., 1865.

9. G. C. M. O. 45, 46, Dept. of the East, 1872.

10. A recent case is that of the presenting of a fraudulent claim for the services of a telegrapher at a signal station. G. C. M. O. 61 of 1880. So, of a printer. G. C. M. O. 1 of 1883. A form of fraudulent claim, where the fraud consists in an altered and false statement is that made by reporting on a clothing account a sum as due which is greater than the actual amount. G. C. M. O. 26 of 1883. And see a similar case in Do. 48 of 1879.

This part of the statute is not restricted to the presenting of claims by a party in his own behalf, but extends to claims presented in behalf of another person. *U. S. v. Hull*, 4 McCrary, 274.

11. There is little distinction between a claim that is false and one that is fraudulent, and no significance is attached to the use of the disjunctive "*or*" in this connection.

by the Article the gist of the offence. If he knew, or the circumstances of the case were such as properly to charge him with the knowledge, that the claim was a fictitious or dishonest one when made or presented, &c., he is amenable to trial under this part of the Article; otherwise not. Where an officer presented his pay account and received his pay thereon without having been notified of a sentence of court-martial by which he was dismissed and his pay forfeited, he was held by the Judge Advocate General not to be chargeable with the offence of knowingly making a false or fraudulent claim under this Article.¹ So the mere filling out and signing of a pay account before the pay has become due does not constitute such an offence. An officer, for example, when required to absent himself from his post, may properly sign and leave with his family a form or forms of account for certain pay, before the same becomes payable, as a provision for their support during his absence: here, the design being that the account shall be presented only when it falls due, a knowingly making of a false claim cannot be ascribed.²

Paragraph 3. The offence here described is the entering into an *agreement or conspiracy* with a view to defraud the United States, by inducing the payment by it of a false or fraudulent claim. It will consist in such acts as the signing or approving of untrue certificates, vouchers, accounts, &c.; the procuring of such writings, by means of misrepresentation or deceit, to be approved by superior officers; the procuring false receipts, vouchers or statements to be signed by third parties, &c.,—pursuant to a collusion with one or more persons, and with fraudulent intent as above. A familiar illustration would be a conspiracy, between an officer (or soldier) on the one hand and a government contractor or other civilian on the other, to defraud the United States, to their mutual benefit, by means of falsified vouchers indicating the delivery by the latter of supplies not in fact furnished,³ false accounts for recruiting expenses,⁴ or other spurious claims.⁵

1. DIGEST, 33.

2. See G. C. M. O. 28 of 1872.

3. See cases in G. C. M. O. 11 of 1872; G. O. 8, Dept. of Cal., 1872; also cases in G. C. M. O. 4, 6, of 1873, where, however, the offence is not charged under the present Article.

4. See cases in G. O. 18 of 1864; G. C. M. O. 131 of 1864.

5. See cases in G. C. M. O. 152, 614, of 1865; Do. 47 of 1870.

Paragraph 5. The making of the false oath here indicates though not of course perjury at common law, (which is the making of such an oath in a judicial proceeding or course of justice may properly be regarded as assimilated to that crime in some of its requisites.² Thus the oath, as in perjury, should be taken on some material point,—that is to say, here, to some writing or statement in whole or in part pertinent to the proof or prosecution of a claim presented,—and should be taken before a magistrate or other civil official legally authorized to administer an oath.³ In the same way the same may be said as to an oath *procured to be made* by another, the procuring of the making of a false oath being assimilated to subornation of perjury.⁴ As to the further offense of the *advising* of the making of a false oath, it may be added that “advises” is evidently to be construed like the same word in Art. 51, being related to the term “procures” much as it is there related to the term “persuades.”⁵

Paragraph 6. Here the expressions “forges or counterfeits” “forging or counterfeiting,” &c., are evidently intended to include any fraudulent making of the signature of another person, whether the same be or not imitated; the word “counterfeits” pointing rather to a simulation of the handwriting, while the general term “forging” embraces any form of false writing of the name.⁶

While this paragraph, in common with the two which precede, employs the general description—“any writing or other paper, yet, as the purpose of the forgery, &c., must be to obtain the allowance or payment of a claim against the United States,”—the prosecution, as in a case of forgery at common law, should

1. 2 Bishop, C. L. § 1015.

2. It may also be assimilated, in like particulars, to the statute of perjury made punishable by Sec. 5392, Rev. Sts.

3. Such an oath taken before an officer of the army would be unauthorized and of no effect,—except possibly in a rare case of a claim for an account of property destroyed, damaged, &c., in the service, when such an oath might be legal under par. 1752, Army Regs.

4. That subornation of perjury is but another form of perjury, see Bishop, C. L. § 1056, 1197. And see Sec. 5393, Rev. Sts., by which subornation of perjury is made punishable precisely as is perjury.

5. See Fifty-First Article, *ante*, p. 936.

6. Compare definitions of forgery in 1 Wharton, C. L. § 653 Bishop, C. L. § 523.

pared to prove that the falsified signature is upon a paper which is material, or which appears on its face to be material, to : proof of the claim, so as to be capable of effecting or contributing to effect some fraud in connection with it.¹ The writings papers mainly had in view in the paragraph are the usual vouchers, certificates, returns, accounts, rolls, final statements, descriptive lists, &c., the completion of which by the signature the person interested, or of the officer whose formal authentication is required, is essential to the substantiation of a claim for , &c.²

To establish a charge under this paragraph, it should of course appear that the accused made, &c., the signature alleged to be forged or counterfeited, wholly without the authority of the person whose name it is, since if any authority to sign it existed, : specific offence would not be committed.³

As has already been observed to be the fact with regard to this class of offences in general, no fraud upon the United States need usually be consummated in order to complete the offence specified in this paragraph. Here, as in forgery at common law, the mere making of the false signature with the illegal purpose constitutes the crime; the contemplated wrong need not have been executed, nor need the forged writing have been uttered or used.⁴

In the present instance indeed the *using* of the forged signature made a separate specific offence: in the majority of the cases : two offences—the forging, &c., and the knowingly uttering—were generally both been committed by the accused:⁵ the latter offence, however, is complete whether the falsification of the signature was the act of the accused or some other person.

As to the further offences specified, of *procuring*⁶ and *advising*

. See 2 Bishop, C. L. § 524, 533.

. See cases in G. O. 181 of 1863; G. C. M. O. 1 of 1883; DIGEST, also the case of the forging by a soldier of an officer's name to a check on the U. S., in G. C. M. O. 46 of 1884.

. See 2 Bishop, C. L. § 579.

. 2 Bishop, C. L. § 602.

. See the cases in G. O. 336 of 1863; Do. 67 of 1864; G. C. M. O. 395, of 1864; Do. 395 of 1865; Do. 39 of 1866; Do. 56 of 1867; Do. of 1870; Do. 27 of 1872.

. In G. C. M. O. 605 of 1865, is published a case of an officer convicted of an offence of this class, in procuring a corporal to forge upon pay roll the names of twelve persons as government employees, with a view of substantiating a fraudulent claim for an amount of money as

the forging, &c., of the signature, or its use when forged, &c., the remarks will be applicable which have already been made in regard to the similar forms of the offences designated in the previous paragraphs.

Paragraph 7. The act here made criminal is, in substance, the paying out of public money, (or delivering of other public property,) to the person authorized to receive it, in a less amount however than is actually due him, and taking a receipt from him for the whole amount to which he is actually entitled. The criminality of the act consists, in general, in the illegal withholding from such party of the difference between the sum or quantity paid or delivered and the face of the receipt, and the converting of such difference to his own use, by a disbursing or other officer, who, by the transaction, is also enabled to obtain credit with the United States for a larger amount than has actually been expended by him.¹ While the proceeding may be collusive, the act is ordinarily effected by deceiving the employee, &c., as to the sum or quantity really due him, and causing him to sign a blank or falsified receipt therefor.² The criminal nature of the offence is illustrated by a reference to Sec. 5483 of the Revised Statutes, by which an officer, charged with the paying out of any moneys appropriated by Congress, who pays to a government employee a sum less than that provided by law, while requiring him "to receipt or give a voucher for an amount greater than that actually paid to and received by him," is declared to be guilty of *embezzlement*, and directed to be fined in double the amount so withheld from the employee, and imprisoned at hard labor for two years.³

pay due them. In Do. 53 of 1870 is a further case of an officer's procuring an enlisted man of his command to falsify the company rolls by entering the name of a deserter thereon, preparatory to presenting the roll for payment and drawing the deserter's pay.

1. See DIGEST, 33 § 5.

2. See cases in G. C. M. O. 196 of 1864; Do. 35 of 1872. In a case in Do. 52 of 1873, the offence was committed by an A. A. Q. M., in turning over public property to his successor. And compare case in Do. 31 of 1869, charged, however, under Art. 61. In a case in Do. 37 of 1877, a form of the offence was committed by causing a contractor to sign a receipt for a greater amount than was due him, formally paying him the full amount, and thereupon receiving from him the balance which was then appropriated. And compare similar case in G. C. M. O. 37 of 1877.

3. See case in G. O. 63 of 1852. And note Sec. 5496, Rev. Sts., by

Paragraph 8. This paragraph makes punishable the giving by an officer, &c., of a receipt, known by him to be false or not known by him to be true, for property as duly delivered for public use in the military service—"with intent to defraud the United States." The act indicated is commonly a collusive transaction between the officer and the contractor, or other person, by whom the property is delivered; the former agreeing, for a consideration, to receive less than the amount to which the United States is entitled, (and thus relieve the latter from furnishing the entire quantity,) while at the same time giving him a receipt certifying on its face the delivery of the whole.¹

Paragraph 9. The forms of offence here designated are—the Stealing, Embezzlement, Misappropriation, Misapplication, and improper Sale or Disposition of money or other public property, "furnished or intended for the military service."

Stealing. The offence of *larceny* has already been sufficiently fully considered under the Fifty-Eighth Article, by which general courts-martial are invested with a jurisdiction of this and sundry other crimes, *in time of war*. The present Article vests courts-martial with jurisdiction, *at all times*—in peace as well as in war—of larceny of *public property*, "furnished," &c., as above. For the stealing indeed of public money or military stores, a charge will also in general lie under Art. 62, inasmuch as such offence will ordinarily be one directly affecting military discipline.²

Embezzlement—Definition. This is not a common-law but a statutory offence.³ In general terms it may be defined as a fraudulent or unlawful appropriation of money or other property, by a person in a fiduciary capacity,—as a servant, agent, trustee, bailee, &c.,—to whom, in such capacity, it has been en-

which a disbursing officer who "accepts, receives, or transmits to the Treasury Department, to be allowed in his favor, any receipt or voucher from a creditor of the United States," without having in fact paid to him the full amount of its face, is declared to be guilty of the criminal conversion of such amount.

1. See case reported by Hough, 256, 266; also case in G. C. M. O. 11 of 1872, and DIGEST, 33.

2. See under the Sixty-Second Article, *post*; also DIGEST, 37.

3. 2 Bishop, C. L. § 319; *Ex parte Hedley*, 31 Cal. 111.

trusted by the owner.¹ Embezzlement, though really a species of larceny,² differs from larceny at common law, and mainly in the fact that the latter involves, (as heretofore shown,³) a trespass by a taking from the possession of the owner, whereas in embezzlement, in general, the property being in the rightful possession of the offender, no trespass can be committed by the appropriation.⁴

Proof of the offence under the Article. To establish embezzlement in general it is necessary to show—1. That the accused was a servant or agent of the owner of the property, or maintained some fiduciary relation toward him; 2. That he received into his possession the money or other property of such owner; 3. That he received it by virtue of his employment or fiduciary relation; 4. That he fraudulently converted it to his own use.⁵

An officer or soldier of the army is always an agent or employee of the United States, and it will not in general be necessary to prove his commission or enlistment unless it be specially controverted. Where it is charged that the offence was committed by him in a particular function or capacity, as that of paymaster, quartermaster, commissary of subsistence, military storekeeper, or other disbursing officer, or as quartermaster sergeant, commissary sergeant, hospital steward, &c.,⁶ the fact that such was his office or capacity and that he was duly acting therein at the time of the offence, will, if not admitted, readily be established by general notoriety, by the party's admission:

1. 1 Wharton, C. L. § 1009; 2 Bishop, C. L. § 325; Samuel, 515 *Ex parte* Hedley, 31 Cal. 108. "The property must be shown to have been entrusted to him, so that it was in his possession and not in the possession of the owner." *Com. v. O'Malley*, 97 Mass. 586.

2. See *Com. v. Simpson*, 9 Met. 143.

3. Under the Fifty-Eighth Article, *ante*.

4. Upon the history of Embezzlement, see 1 Wharton, C. L., c. XV; 2 Bishop, C. L., c. XVI; *Com. v. Stearns*, 2 Met. 345; *Com. v. Simpson*, 9 Id. 142; *Com. v. Hayes*, 14 Gray, 64; *People v. Hennessey*, 15 Wend. 151.

5. *Ex parte* Hedley, 31 Cal. 112.

6. Or as post treasurer of a military post, (G. C. M. O. 52 of 1877;) treasurer of a military prison, (Id.;) sergeant in charge of a recruiting rendezvous, (G. C. M. O. 37 of 1877.) And see case in G. C. M. O. 31 of 1883, of a soldier who embezzled a "depot fund."

of his status, or by the orders investing him with the particular character and duty.

The receipt and possession of the property will commonly be shown by the accounts, returns, &c., of the accused, by the testimony of the officer or other person by whom the money or other property was transferred, delivered, or paid, by the testimony of the public depositary, or by the open possession and use or disposition of the property *as property* of the United States.

The fact of the fraudulent conversion in embezzlement may be evidenced by the absconding¹ of the accused with public funds, or his desertion with articles of public property in his possession; by a deliberate falsification, as where the party denies that he has ever received the money or property which has been in fact committed or paid to him; by the rendering of a false return or account in which the receipt from the Treasury, (or from the proceeds of sales, &c.,) of the money alleged to have been embezzled, is omitted to be acknowledged, or in which a fictitious balance is made to appear, or which is otherwise falsified or purposely misstated;² by a failure altogether to render an account required by statute, regulation or order; by the unauthorized selling, giving, or otherwise disposing of public property to civilians or military persons;³ by the paying out of public funds to persons not entitled to receive the same; by a neglect to pay sums justly due to employees, contractors, or other public creditors, out of money furnished for the purpose,⁴ or to make any other required disbursement; by a neglect to honor proper requisitions for military stores, or a dealing of them out in short or insufficient quantities, notwithstanding that ample supplies have been provided by the gov-

1. The element of *stealth* is said by the authorities to be peculiarly characteristic of this crime. *Rex. v. Norman*, C. & M. 501; *Com. v. Tuckerman*, 10 Gray, 201, 207; 1 *Wharton*, C. L. § 1030; *Samuel*, 515; *O'Brien*, 131.

2. As by charging amounts as paid which have not been paid. *G. C. M. O.* 49 of 1867; *O'Brien*, 131. One of the most significant falsifications of account consists in carrying balances over from one account to another as "money on hand," when in fact the same is not on hand but has been in some way illegally appropriated or expended.

3. The selling of ammunition, arms, clothing, &c., made punishable in Arts. 16 and 17, is a form of embezzlement; and so is the retention and conversion of captured property in violation of the injunction of Art. 9.

4. See *Samuel*, 529; *O'Brien*, 131.

ernment;¹ by a failure to turn over to a successor, on being relieved, the full amount of public property for which the officer is legally accountable;² or by any other form of non-performance or mal-performance of the trust devolved upon the party.³ Further, a conversion may be presumable from an inability on part of an officer to respond to the demand of an inspector general, or other proper authority, to make actual exhibit of account for the moneys, stores, &c., for which he is shown by returns or accounts to be responsible.⁴ It may also be presumable from an exhibit made of such moneys, effected by borrowing money from other officers or persons, to represent, for the Government, an amount of public funds which should be in possession but has in fact been illegally used and is in deficit.

Defence. Presumptive evidence, such as has been indicated, may be met by the proof of facts going to rebut the inference that the property has been fraudulently converted. Thus it may be shown that the funds or stores were captured by the enemy, lost without fault on the part of the officer, or stolen or presumably stolen by a clerk, soldier or other person;⁵ or that the deficiency of supplies was caused by wastage or an accidental over-issue.⁶ So, in a case of an alleged conversion of property other than money, the greater offence may be rebutted by evidence of a lesser; as, for example, by evidence that the property was not embezzled but misapplied or improperly diverted or—as by using it for private purposes or loaning it.⁷ But the using of public money for private purposes, or the loaning of

1. Samuel, 527-8.

2. G. C. M. O. 19, 27, of 1872.

3. G. O. 18 of 1861. The mixing of one's private funds with public funds, by depositing them without authority with the same public depository, may, under some circumstances, be evidence of a fraudulent intent to convert the latter. Remarks of Secretary of War in C. M. O. 34 of 1872.

4. See G. C. M. O. 49 of 1867; also Do. 5 of 1869; Do. 81 of 1874.

5. See DIGEST, 35; also Secs. 1059, 1062, investing the Court of Claims with jurisdiction to determine the claims of disbursing officers for relief from pecuniary responsibility on account of the loss by them, while in the line of duty, of public funds, &c., by "capture or otherwise and with authority to grant such relief where the officer was without fault or negligence.

6. Hough, 257, 267.

7. See "Misapplication," *post*.

would, independently of the statutory provisions yet to be noticed, constitute an act of embezzlement, and it would be no justification that the accused fully intended to restore the amount,¹ or even that he did actually restore it before charges were preferred.²

A defence in the nature of offset or counter-claim could, it need hardly be added, scarcely be tenable in a military case. Thus an officer could not excuse the appropriation of public money in his hands on the ground that he was but reimbursing himself for pay or allowances wrongfully withheld from him.

Special Statutory Embezzlements. The statutes of the United States, *viz.* Secs. 5488, 5491 and 5492, Rev. Sts., have expressly declared that certain acts, when committed by disbursing officers, shall constitute embezzlements of public money and be punishable as such with fine and imprisonment. The acts specified are—the depositing, or withdrawing from deposit, of public moneys except as legally authorized; the failing to deposit the same in the Treasury or with a public depositary when required to do so by the proper superior; the loaning of the same with or without interest; the failing to render accounts for the same as provided by law; and the transferring or applying the same for any purpose not prescribed by law.³ A further embezzlement, designated in Sec. 5496 as consisting in the acceptance, or transmittal to the Treasury for allowance, of vouchers or receipts for money which has not in fact been paid, has already been noticed under Paragraph 7.

These acts, though in terms made the subject of trial and punishment by the U. S. civil tribunals, are, when committed by *military* disbursing officers, properly taken cognizance of by courts-martial under Art. 60, as being forms of the statutory offence of embezzlement expressly constituted and defined in

1. In *Com. v. Tuckerman*, 10 Gray, 201, 205, the Court say of an embezzlement that its criminality was not affected by the fact that, at the time of taking the funds, the party "intended to restore what he had so appropriated before the appropriation should become known to the owners, and believed that he should be able to do so, and had in his possession property to secure the full amount taken."

2. G. C. M. O. 34 of 1872. And see DIGEST, 35.

3. To these is added—the converting of such moneys in any manner to personal use. But this general offence is no more than the embezzlement already considered.

the laws of the United States. This was in effect ruled by Gen. Holt as Secretary of War, in 1861, in the case of Capt. Jorda Asst. Quartermaster,¹ charged with the offence specified in Sec. 5496; and, in a series of instances since arising, officers of the army have been tried and sentenced by court-martial for special embezzlements of the class under consideration.²

Rules of evidence on proof of these embezzlements—No specific intent required to be shown. These statutory embezzlements are consummated by the mere commission of the act in which the embezzlement in any instance is defined to consist, without regard to the *purpose* or *motive* of the offender. It is the object of the statute law to ensure, by every precaution suggested by experience, the safe-keeping and proper disposition of the public moneys: it therefore makes the mere departure from the rules which it has established with this view a crime *per se*, independently of the circumstances or the *animus* of the accused, these being left to affect only the measure of the punishment. It is accordingly no defence that the act was unaccompanied with a design to defraud the United States, or to convert the money to the party's personal use; or that it was done innocently and in good faith but under a mistake of judgment; or, when the moneys have been illegally withdrawn or used, that the amount was restored to the proper depository or otherwise made good before formal demand was made for the same.⁴

2. Demand and refusal, prima facie evidence of guilt. The law,—in Sec. 5495, Rev. Sts.,—further expressly lays down

1. G. O. 1, War Dept., 1861.

2. See cases in G. C. M. O. 175 of 1866; Do. 43, 86, of 1868; Do. 5 of 1869; Do. 2, 18, 21, of 1871; Do. 27, 34, of 1872; Do. 18, 58, 81, of 1873; Do. 51 of 1875. In some cases an unauthorized withdrawing or depositing of public moneys has been charged, in form or in substance: "Violation of Sec. 5488, Rev. Sts., to the prejudice of good order and military discipline." See G. C. M. O. 52 of 1877; Do. 5 of 1881; Do. 1 of 1883.

3. In G. C. M. O. 34 of 1872, it is said by the Secretary of War specially of Sec. 5488, Rev. Sts., that it is "a statute enacted for the more complete protection of the Treasury, and which, without regard to the intent of the offender, denounces all withdrawals from a public depository, or dispositions of public moneys, not authorized by express law." And see DIGEST, 34-35; XIV Opins. At. Gen., 473.

4. DIGEST, 35. And see G. C. M. O. 34 of 1872.

a *rule of evidence* to the effect that the refusal of any person, charged with the custody and disposition of public moneys, to pay any draft, order, or warrant drawn upon him, by the proper accounting officer of the Treasury, for the public money in his hands, or to transfer or disburse any such money promptly, upon the requirement of an authorized officer, "*shall be deemed, upon the trial of any indictment against such person for embezzlement, as presumptive evidence*" of the commission of the offence.¹ Applying this rule to a military case—proof of a formal demand upon an officer or soldier in charge of public funds, made by an authorized superior, to pay over or account for the same, followed by his refusal, or neglect within a reasonable time, so to do, would be evidence *per se* of embezzlement. Such evidence being produced, the prosecution would not be required to show what had become of the funds, but the burden would be thrown upon the accused to establish that his disposition of the same had been in accordance with law.²

Misappropriation. The knowing and wilful, (*i. e.* intentional,) misappropriation of public property, specified in Paragraph 9, may be defined to be the assuming to one's self, or assigning to another, of the ownership of such property, where the same is not entrusted to the party in a fiduciary capacity and the act is therefore not an embezzlement. Thus the offence is committed where an officer appropriates materials known by him to belong to the United States, or the labor of government employees, in erecting a building or constructing a carriage which is to be his own property.³ The appropriation, however, need not be for the party's own benefit, but may be resorted to for a friend or for the accommodation of a person interested with the officer in some business, &c.

Misapplication. This offence is, strictly, distinguishable from the last in that it is properly an appropriation not of the *ownership* of the property but of its *use*, and that, by the terms of the paragraph, it must be an appropriation for the *personal*

1. A further rule of evidence, in regard to the form of showing a balance of account against a person charged with embezzlement of public money, is enacted in Sec. 5495, Rev. Sts.

2. DIGEST, 35, 36.

3. See cases in DIGEST, 36; G. C. M. O

"benefit" of the offender; as where an officer or soldier may use without authority of animals, vehicles, tools, &c., of the Government—whether or not specially entrusted to his charge—the purposes of himself or his family.¹

Wrongful Sale or Disposition. Under this designation included sales, &c., such as are made punishable by Arts. 16 and 17, as also any other unauthorized sale,² or any unauthorized purchase, barter, exchange, loan, or gift, of public property.³ The general and comprehensive term '*wrongful disposition*' includes any appropriation or application of such property not embraced within the previous descriptions of offences in this Paragraph. Thus it would include unauthorized applications of the possession or use of the property not for the private purposes of the offender, as, for example, the loaning by an officer or soldier to a civilian (for his benefit exclusively,) of stores, tools, materials, &c. of the United States, with the understanding that the same were to be returned.⁴ This term, (wrongful disposition,) however, like the designations of misappropriation and misapplication which precede it, is, in practice, not always employed in a strict sense, and it would not be exceeding the privilege of military pleading in charge as a "wrongful disposition," under this Article, any illegal appropriation, diversion, or employment, knowingly made of money or other property of the United States, not clearly constituting a larceny or embezzlement.⁵

1. See cases in DIGEST, 36; G. C. M. O. 379 of 1865.

It may be remarked that a clear distinction of meaning between the terms "misappropriate" and "misapply," and between these and "embezzle," as also "wrongfully dispose of," is not strictly observed in practice. In pleadings, drawn with no more than ordinary care, the same act is not unfrequently found described by several or even all of these terms in the same charge. Such irregularities, however, will not in general affect the validity of a sentence where an offence of this class has been substantially proved and found.

2. As, for example, a sale of condemned public property made by a quartermaster, in the absence of orders from the Department commanding authorizing the same. G. C. M. O. 2 of 1878.

3. Such transactions are declared by Sec. 3748, Rev. Sts., to pass title, but to render the article sold, &c., subject to seizure on the part of the United States, wherever found.

4. See cases in G. C. M. O. 26 of 1869; Do. 18 of 1874.

5. See note, *ante*, as to the absence, in general practice, of an accurate discrimination in charging, &c., the offences of the class indicated in

Defence, &c. While an accidental, or slight and temporary, application to personal use, or an unimportant though irregular disposition, of government property will not in general be made the subject of a military charge, such application, &c., where material and continued, especially where so conspicuous as to constitute an example prejudicial to the *morale* or discipline of the command, may be a serious offence. And the fact that the same is practiced generally in a command, or is sanctioned by the commanding officer, cannot be accepted as a *defence* to the charge, though, as a circumstance to be considered in adjusting the measure of punishment, it may properly be admitted in evidence.¹

Paragraph 10. This paragraph makes punishable the purchasing, or receiving in pledge, of arms, clothing, stores, or other public property, from an officer or soldier who is without authority to sell or pledge the same. It is thus in a measure the *complement* of the latter portion of the preceding paragraph, in which is designated the offence of selling or disposing of similar property. The act indicated is as a *military* offence most rare; as a civil offence, made punishable by Sec. 5438, Rev. Stats., it has been much more common.

Punishment. The Article provides that offenders, upon conviction, "*shall be punished by fine or imprisonment, or by such other punishment as a court-martial may adjudge.*" Such a court may therefore adjudge, in its discretion, either fine or imprisonment or both, and either with or without other penalties such as dismissal, discharge, reduction or forfeiture,² or any one or more of these penalties without either fine or imprisonment. Where imprisonment or fine is imposed, the court may properly consult, as indicating a reasonable measure of punishment, the provisions of Sec. 5438, Rev. Sts., prescribing penalties for *civil* offenders upon conviction of the same offences as those described in the Article, or—in cases of the specific statutory embezzlements—the provisions, as to punishment, of the Sections defining the

Paragraph. Instances of embezzlement charged as "wrongful disposition" are occasionally to be met with in the G. O.

1. DIGEST, 36.

2. Embezzlement of military stores *in time of war* may be a most serious offence. By a Resolution of Aug. 22, 1780, (3 Jour. Cong. 511,) this offence was made punishable with *death*.

same. Where any considerable fine is adjudged, the court will do well to add an imprisonment until the fine be paid; this, with or without the limitation that the imprisonment shall not exceed a certain fixed number of years.¹ Where a dismissal is adjudged, the sentence, in a case of an offence involving *fraud*, should contain the direction in regard to the publication of the crime, punishment, &c., which is prescribed by Art. 100.²

Extent of Liability to Prosecution under the Article. The concluding provision of the Article, by which the jurisdiction of courts-martial over offenders is continued until after their separation, by discharge or dismissal, from the military service, has already been remarked upon³ as being of at least doubtful constitutionality, in that it subjects *civilians* to military arrest, trial and punishment.⁴ That such exceptional authority and jurisdiction, if accepted as legal, are still subject in their exercise to the general limitation of the 103d Article, has also been pointed out in a previous Chapter.⁵

XXVI. THE SIXTY-FIRST ARTICLE.

[CONDUCT UNBECOMING AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN.]

"ART. 61. *Any officer who is convicted of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman shall be dismissed from the service.*"

The Original Article. The corresponding provision, as it appeared in the Articles of 1775, was as follows:—"Whatsoever commissioned officer shall be convicted before a general court-martial of behaving in a scandalous, infamous manner, such as is unbecoming the character of an officer and a gentleman, shall be discharged from the service." This language, which was taken

1. See *ante*, Chapter XX, p. 593.

2. *Ante*, Chapter XX, p. 574.

3. In Chapter VIII—"JURISDICTION OF GENERAL COURTS-MARTIAL."

4. For cases in which this jurisdiction was exercised, see G. C. M. O. 241 of 1864; Do. 45 of 1865; Do. 15 of 1871; G. O. 78, Dept. of the East, 1864; Do. 105, Dept. of the Mo., 1864; Do. 15, Dept. of the Carolinas, 1866; Do. 13, Dept. of the South, 1867; also G. O. 143, Navy Dept., 1869.

5. Chapter XVI, p. 361.

from the then existing British Articles, was repeated in the code of 1776, and re-enacted in substantially identical terms in the revision of 1786. In the succeeding code of 1806, the Article first assumed its present form, the words "scandalous" and "infamous" being omitted.¹

Effect of the Present Form. It is the effect of this omission to extend materially the scope of the Article,² and thus indeed to establish a higher standard of character and conduct for officers of the army. As the Article now stands, it is no longer essential, to expose an officer to dismissal, that his conduct as charged should be *infamous* either in the legal or the colloquial sense;³ nor is it absolutely necessary, (though this will often be its effect,) that it *scandalize* the military service or the community. It is only required that it should be "unbecoming"—a comprehensive term including not only all that is conveyed by the words "scandalous" and "infamous" but more.⁴ At the same time the original phraseology is properly borne in mind as indicating that, to become the subject of a charge, the unbecoming conduct should be not slight but of a material and pronounced character.

Construction. In order to determine what is "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman," it will be desirable first to define the two terms "unbecoming" and "gentleman."

"Unbecoming," as here employed, is understood to mean not merely inappropriate or unsuitable, as being opposed to good taste or propriety or not consonant with usage, but morally unbefitting and unworthy.

"Gentleman." So, *this* term is believed to be used, not simply to designate a person of education, refinement and good breed-

1. That the conduct need no longer be *scandalous* or *infamous*, see G. O. 41 of 1852; DIGEST, 37. The term "scandalous conduct" is preserved in the article of the *naval* code, (Art. 8, first par.,) most nearly corresponding to our 61st. The present corresponding provision of the British law, (Army Act § 16,) is:—"Every officer who behaves in a scandalous manner, unbecoming the character of an officer and a gentleman, shall on conviction by court-martial be cashiered."

2. O'Brien, 160; G. O. 30 of 1852; Do. 29, Dept. of Cal., 1865; G. C. M. O. 69, Dept. of the East, 1870.

3. See Opin. At. Gen., in Gen. Swaim's case—G. C. M. O. 19 of 1885.

4. Tytler, 212; O'Brien, 160.

ing,¹ but to indicate such a gentleman as an officer of the army expected to be,² *viz.* a man of honor; that is to say, a man of high sense of justice, of an elevated standard of morals and manners, and of a corresponding general deportment.

The Misconduct contemplated. These terms being defined, it is next to be observed that the conduct had in view by the Article may not consist in conduct unbecoming an *officer* only, or in conduct unbecoming a *gentleman* only, but must in every case be unbecoming the accused in *both* these characters at once. Acts which are not creditable to an officer will of course be equally so to a gentleman, and vice versa; but there are indeed alike involve the reputation of the individual as a gentleman, but there are many such acts, as for example certain neglects of strictly military duty or instances of disregard of military orders or obligations, to which this effect could not properly be ascribed.³ On the other hand, there may be things done by an officer in connection with his purely private and personal relations, which while they may, temporarily at least, compromise his character as a gentleman, will not necessarily seriously affect his standing as an officer or directly discredit the service.⁴

To constitute therefore the conduct here denounced, the act which forms the basis of the charge must have a double significance and effect. It must offend so seriously against law, justice, morality or decorum as to expose to disgrace, socially as a man, the offender, and at the same time must be of such a nature or committed under such circumstances as to bring discredit or dishonor upon the military profession which he represents.⁵

1. Imperial Dictionary; Webster's Do.

2. "An officer of the army * * * is bound by the law to be a gentleman." Cushing, VI Opins. At. Gen., 417. It is said by De Hart (p. 372.) that—"the military community cannot expect, nor ought it to be expected of them, to preserve a higher tone of moral conduct than what is sustained by the higher orders of society." But they may be expected to preserve one which is in no degree lower." See G. O. 41 of 1852, p. 5.

3. See G. O. 29, Dept. of Cal., 1865; also Do. 3, War Dept., 1867, where a neglect of duty, charged under this Article, is referred to as being "of the immoral and dishonorable or disreputable character necessary to sustain a charge under" the same.

4. See G. O. 30 of 1852.

5. See De Hart, 371, 374, 376; DIGEST, 38. It is not absolutely essential that the act of the offender should be intrinsically dishonorable.

It is to be observed that while the act charged will more usually have been committed in a military capacity, or have grown out of some military status or relation, it is by no means essential that this should have been its history.¹ It may equally well have originated in some private transaction of the party, (as a member of civil society or as a man of business,) which, while impeaching his personal honor, has involved such notoriety or publicity, or led to such just complaint to superior military authority,² as to have seriously compromised his character and position as an officer of the army and brought scandal or reproach upon the service. Of this description is that disregard of his pecuniary obligations by an officer which—as will presently be noted—may, under certain circumstances, properly become the subject of a charge under the present Article.³ But a charge founded upon a purely private transaction of an officer of the army is not favored in military law, and unless clearly of the above character should not be entertained.⁴

It may be added that if the act, though ungentlemanlike, be of a trifling character, involving no material prejudice to individual rights, or offence against public morals or decorum, it will not, (as already remarked,) in general properly be viewed as so affecting the reputation of the officer or the credit of the service as to be made the occasion of a prosecution under the Article.⁵

The quality, indeed, of the conduct intended to be stigmatized by this provision of the code is, in general terms, indicated by

Thus in G. O. 25, Dept. of the Mo., 1867, Gen. Hancock observes :—
 “It is not considered that the conduct of an officer should necessarily affect his honor to make him subject to a charge laid under this Article. An officer may be guilty, in the heat of passion, of conduct properly so laid, without affecting his honor. * * * Although dishonorable conduct is conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, the converse of the proposition is not always true.” And see G. O. 3 of 1856, cited in note *ante*, where the conduct is described as “dishonorable *or* disreputable.” Cases, however, in which conduct properly charged under this Article does not involve some dishonor, are rare.

1. De Hart, 373; O'Brien, 159-60; U. S. v. Runkle, 19 Ct. Cl. 414, citing DIGEST, 39.

2. DIGEST, 40. As to complaints made to the War Department, see *post*.

3. DIGEST, 39, 40.

4. See Manual, 304.

5. See O'Brien, 159; G. O. 97, 111, Army of the Potomac, 1862: DIGEST, 38.

the fact that a conviction of the same must necessarily entail the penalty of *dismissal*. The Article in the fewest words declares that a member of the army who misconducts himself as described is unworthy to abide in the military service of the United States. The fitness therefore of the accused to hold a commission in the army, as discovered by the nature of the behaviour complained of, or rather his worthiness, morally, to remain in it after and in view of such behaviour, is perhaps the most reliable test of his amenability to trial and punishment under this Article.

General Definition. "Conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman" may thus be defined to be:—Action or behavior in an official capacity, which, in dishonoring or otherwise disgracing the individual as an officer, seriously compromises his character and standing as a gentleman; *Or* action or behaviour in an unofficial or private capacity, which, in dishonoring or disgracing the individual personally as a gentleman, seriously compromises his position as an officer and exhibits him as morally unworthy to remain a member of the honorable profession of arms.

Instances of Offences charged under the Article. The definition above given is best illustrated by a reference to the principal offences which, in practice, as indicated mainly by the

1. "The retention of a member of the army, after a conviction of the derogatory nature, would not only be disreputable to the character of the military society, but of no indirect tendency, from the force of example to contaminate the body of the society itself." Samuel, 645. Simmon (§ 158,) refers to the Article as "essential to the high respectability and honorable character of the army, by providing for the removal from it of officers who may be guilty" of the conduct denounced. And see O'Brien, 159. In G. O. 111, Army of the Potomac, 1862, it is said by Gen. McClellan:—"These words, ('conduct unbecoming,' &c.) imply something more than indecorum, and military men do not consider the charge sustained unless the evidence shows the accused to be one with whom his brother officers cannot associate without loss of self respect." In G. C. M. O. 88, War Dept., 1874, it is observed, that—"the chief end and aim of this Article is to maintain a correct rule of gentlemanlike conduct among officers of the army, and, with this view, to provide for expulsion from the service of any who may be guilty of such disgraceful or scandalous offences against decency as those set forth in these specifications," (gross drunken conduct, and association with prostitutes, in public.) And see G. O. 167, Dept. of Va. and No. Ca., 1864; Do. 29, Dept. of Cal., 1865; also opinion of At. Gen. in Gen. Swaim's Case, G. C. M. O. 19 of 1885.

General Orders, have been charged and prosecuted under this Article.¹ These are as follows:—

Making false official statements, reports, &c., to superior officers.²

Making false official statements to an inferior officer,³ or false representations in turning over to such an officer public property.⁴

Using insulting and defamatory language, without justification to another officer, or of him in the presence of other military persons, or behaving towards him in an otherwise grossly insulting manner.⁵

Writing or publishing false or libellous matter in regard to another officer.⁶

Knowingly preferring false charges or accusations.⁷ Attempting by underhand means to undermine the reputation of an officer.⁸

1. It is in construing this Article that Hough, (P., 222,) well observes:—"The decisions of courts-martial, when confirmed, show more clearly than any legal work can do what is the opinion of military men, who sit to try such cases, (*i. e.* cases of offences charged under this Article,) in a great measure as *a court of honor*."

2. G. O. 22 of 1845; Do. 36, 42, of 1851; Do. 30 of 1852; Do. 6 of 1856; Do. 234 of 1863; G. C. M. O. 279 of 1864; Do. 166, 179, of 1866; Do. 7, 38, of 1867; Do. 41, 60, 71, 74, of 1868; Do. 1, 5, 19, 20, 61, 62, 67, 71, of 1869; Do. 24, 38, 47, 49, of 1870; Do. 2, 20, of 1871; Do. 12, 13, 19, 35, of 1872; Do. 10, 27, 52, of 1873; Do. 3, 23, 68, of 1874; Do. 67, 84, 92, 104, of 1875; Do. 108 of 1876; Do. 18, 36, 46, 52, of 1877; Do. 38 of 1880; Do. 5, 11, of 1881; Do. 39 of 1882; Do. 30 of 1883; G. O. 35, Dept. of the Miss., 1862.

3. G. C. M. O. 251 of 1864; Do. 61, 73, of 1869; Do. 4 of 1873; Do. 39 of 1877.

4. G. C. M. O. 24 of 1868; Do. 5, 62, of 1869; Do. 52 of 1873.

5. G. O. 41, 97, of 1835; Do. 30 of 1852; Do. 15 of 1860; Do. 146, 168, 183, 243, 249, 310, 330, 380, of 1863; Do. 13, 33, 49, 69, 81, of 1864; G. C. M. O. 100, 149, of 1864; Do. 425 of 1865; Do. 1 of 1870; Do. 20 of 1871; Do. 4 of 1872; Do. 9, 27, of 1873; Do. 11 of 1874; Do. 127 of 1876; Do. 41 of 1879; G. O. 73, Army of the Potomac, 1862; Do. 16, Mountain Dept., 1862.

6. G. C. M. O. 80 of 1875; Do. 44 of 1878; Do. 1 of 1881; G. O. 86, Dist. W. Tenn., 1862; Do. 28, Dept. of the Mo., 1861.

7. G. O. 9 of 1853; Do. 1, 6, of 1856; G. C. M. O. 638 of 1865; Do. 44 of 1878; Do. 1 of 1881.

8. G. O. 26 of 1835. And see Hough, 526; Id., (P.) 233. In a case, however, in G. O. 18 of 1861, in which an officer was convicted of keeping a "*black book*," in which to record the derelictions of his brother officers, with a view to charges, &c., as an offence under this Article,

Opening and reading letters or communications addressed to another officer.¹

Making a violent assault without due cause upon another officer.²

Giving false testimony as a witness before a court-martial board.³ Attempting to suborn testimony to be given before a court-martial.⁴

Breach of trust, official, semi-official, or personal.⁵

the finding was disapproved on the ground that public authority have no right to inquire into private records of this nature.

1. G. O. 15, Dept. & Army of the Tenn., 1864; G. C. M. O. 1 of 1866. In Col. D'Utassy's case, (G. O. 159 of 1863,) this offence was charged under Art. 62.

2. G. O. 30 of 1852; Do. 249 of 1863; Do. 13, 47, 69, of 1864; G. C. M. O. 197 of 1864; Do. 177 of 1866; Do. 28, 68, of 1869; Do. 1 of 1870; Do. 29 of 1871; Do. 58 of 1873.

3. G. O. 37, Dept. of Kansas, 1864; G. C. M. O. 13 of 1872; Do. 1 of 1873; James, 601. And see case in Do. 173 of 1876, of a conviction for the using of a false affidavit by an accused in connection with an address to the court.

4. G. O. 69 of 1864.

5. *In an official capacity*: G. C. M. O. 31, 82, of 1868; Do. 1869; Do. 26 of 1871; Do. 36 of 1877—(cases of appropriating company savings;) G. O. 22 of 1845; G. C. M. O. 73 of 1869—(cases of appropriating the company fund;) G. C. M. O. 15 of 1870—(cases of appropriating savings of flour ration of enlisted men and post hospital fund;) G. C. M. O. 26 of 1871; Do. 52 of 1877—(cases of appropriating the post fund by a post treasurer;) G. C. M. O. 1877—(case of appropriating a prison fund;) G. C. M. O. 28 of 1870; Do. 26 of 1871; Do. 51 of 1875—(cases of appropriating extra pay;) G. C. M. O. 26 of 1871; Do. 12 of 1872—(appropriation of money due contractors and citizens;) G. C. M. O. 18 of 1874—(appropriation of money by an A. Q. M. of a check on a U. S. depository;) G. C. M. O. 1869; Do. 25 of 1871—(appropriation by an A. C. S. and a military storekeeper of the proceeds of sales of public property;) G. O. 1, Dept. of No. Ca., 1865—(appropriation of captured cotton by the commanding the guard;) G. C. M. O. 376, 380, of 1864; Do. 38 of 1865—(appropriation of bounty money by recruiting officers;) G. O. 1, Dept. of the Gulf, 1865—(appropriation of soldiers' pay by their commanding officers who had received it for them from the paymaster;) G. O. 234 of 1865—(appropriation of money of deceased soldiers required to be sent to their heirs;) G. O. 59 of 1864—(appropriation of property in the charge of the officer as provost marshal;) G. C. M. O. 13 of 1879—(appropriation of medicines and hospital stores by the surgeon in charge.)

In a semi-official or personal capacity: G. O. 204 of 1863; G. O. 28 of 1870; G. O. 39, Dept. of Va., 1863; Do. 33, Dept. of No. Ca., 1865—(appropriation of money received from soldiers for safe-keeping and transmission, &c.;) G. C. M. O. 50 of 1874—(appropriation of money

Dishonorable neglect to discharge pecuniary obligations.¹

belonging to an officers' private mess;) G. C. M. O. 21 of 1869; Do. 50 of 1874—(appropriation of money committed to the officer by civilians;) G. C. M. O. 50 of 1884—(using for himself and family the provisions and property of his troop.) In a leading case of this class, in G. C. M. O. 24, Dept. of the East, 1878, of an officer charged, under Art. 61, with failing to account for a fund which had been raised for the erection of a soldiers' monument, and entrusted to his charge, the finding was guilty only of conduct to the prejudice of good order, &c.

1. G. C. M. O. 87 of 1866; Do. 46 of 1872; Do. 10 of 1873; Do. 25, 30, 68, of 1874; G. O. 55, Dept. of Washington, 1863; Do. 110, Id., 1864; Do. 1, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1864—(cases of non-payment of sums borrowed from, or otherwise due to, enlisted men;) G. C. M. O. 18 of 1874—(case of non-payment of a loan from another officer;) G. C. M. O. 17 of 1871; Do. 68 of 1874; Do. 25 of 1875; Do. 100 of 1876—non-payments of debts due to post-traders;) also G. C. M. O. 3, 55, 64, of 1869; Do. 15 of 1870; Do. 22 of 1872; Do. 82 of 1874; Do. 100 of 1876; Do. 46 of 1877; Do. 44, 70, of 1881; G. O. 150, Navy Dept., 1870; G. C. M. O. 36, Id., 1881. And see English precedents of convictions under a corresponding Article for dishonorable disregard of indebtedness to military persons or civilians, in James, pp. 205, 223, 303, 310, 528, 614, 622, 696; also Hough, (P.) 234-5.

In these cases, in general, the debt was contracted under false representations, or the failure to pay characterized by deceit, evasion, false promises, denial of indebtedness, &c., and the neglect to discharge the obligation, at least in part, was continued for an unconscionable period. Some such culpable and *dishonorable* circumstances should characterize the transaction to make it a proper basis for a military charge. A mere failure to settle a private debt, (which may be more the result of misfortune than of fault,) cannot of course properly become the subject of trial and punishment at military law. (See G. C. M. O. 69, Dept. of the East, 1881.) A test of the amenability of the party to charges will be the effect of his conduct upon the reputation of the service. If it be such as to compromise not only the officer personally but also the honor or credit of the military profession,—if, in the words of Gen. McDowell, in G. C. M. O. 113, Dept. of the East, 1870, it "brings the service into disrepute by lowering the faith of the country in the integrity and fidelity of their obligations, of the commissioned officers of the Army,"—an offence within the present Article will in general properly be held to have been committed. And see further on this subject, G. C. M. O. 49, Dept. of the East, 1872; DIGEST, 39-40. In G. C. M. O. 70 of 1881, a conviction of the offence under consideration was disapproved on the ground that there was no *fraud* in the officer's conduct.

In February, 1872, the following was published as a Circular to the Army, by the order of the Secretary of War: "The War Department is frequently annoyed by requests of creditors to compel payment of their just dues by officers of the army. There may be a few instances where delay in making payment is unavoidable. But in a large number of cases an evident disposition appears to evade payment altogether. It is not the province of the Secretary of War to adjudge such claims, nor is it within his power to stop the debtor's pay, and thus compel him to

Duplication of pay accounts.¹

Cruel punishment, or cruel, or unduly violent, treatment of soldiers.²

Demeaning of himself by an officer with soldiers or military inferiors.³

satisfy the claim. But such complaints, coming so frequently from creditors, civil and military, betray a fact greatly to be deplored, that the high standard of honor in such matters, which in former years caused the uniform to be respected and trusted without question, has become impaired. While, therefore, those concerned should relieve the Department from the mortification of such appeals, and the army from the odium which must attach to the necessity for making them, the Secretary now distinctly declares his intention to bring to trial by court-martial, under the 61st Article of War, any officer, who, after due notice, shall fail to quiet such claims against him; and there are not wanting on record instances where commissions have been lost for this offence."

1. This offence has already been referred to as not unfrequently charged under Art. 60, when involving the presenting, &c., of a fraudulent claim for pay against the United States. It is peculiarly properly charged under Art. 61 where individuals are swindled by the fraud of the officers. For cases of convictions see the following Orders:—G. C. M. O. 56, 64, of 1867; Do. 61, 64, 72, of 1869; Do. 11, 22, 23, 38, 43, of 1870; Do. 28, 31, of 1872; Do. 42, 57, of 1874; Do. 25, 50, 59, 104, of 1875; Do. 17, 37, 100, of 1876; Do. 46, 52, of 1877; Do. 40 of 1878; Do. 32, 48, 62, of 1883; Do. 8, 9, of 1884; Do. 20, 23, of 1885; Do. 37, Navy Dept., 1883. In 25 of 1875, the accused is also convicted of selling his pay rolls to bona-fide purchasers after his pay had been, to his knowledge, stopped by the Pay Department. In 46 of 1877, the accused is also convicted of having twice sold and received value for his mileage vouchers.

2. G. C. M. O. 74 of 1868; Do. 13 of 1873; Do. 23 of 1874; Do. 114 of 1875; Do. 36 of 1880; Do. 61 of 1881; G. O. 34, Army of the Potomac, 162. And see Hough, 536. In 13 of 1873, where the only excuse for the ill-treatment by the officer of the soldier was that he was an incorrigible drunkard, the reviewing authority remarks:—"This apology is wholly unavailing for the arbitrary and cruel punishment inflicted upon this unfortunate man. Indeed his condition of helpless drunkenness at the time of the violent assault upon him by accused must be regarded rather as an aggravation of the latter's offence." In a case in G. O. 20 of 1826, an officer is convicted under this Article for striking with his fists and a cowhide a female camp-follower; in G. C. M. O. 48, Dept. of the Mo., 1884, for assaulting and beating a mess-servant.

3. As by drinking and carousing, or other drunken conduct, with them;—see cases in G. O. 199, 209, of 1863; Do. 72 of 1864; G. C. M. O. 472 of 1865; Do. 37, 53, 60, of 1869; Do. 114 of 1875; Do. 34, 39, of 1877; G. O. 4, Army of the Potomac, 1863; James, 369: By gambling with them;—see G. O. of Dec. 10, 1812, (pitching dollars for money;) Do. 1 of 1847; Do. 234 of 1863; G. C. M. O. 93 of 1875; G. O. 39, Army of the Potomac.

Abuse of authority over soldiers by frauds or exactions practised upon them, or by requiring or influencing them to do illegal acts.¹

Acts of fraud or gross falsity, cheats, or other corrupt conduct not included under former heads.²

861; Do. 26, Id., 1862; Do. 34, Id., 1862, (while officer of the guard, with soldiers of the guard;) Do. 47, Dept. of Washington, 1863; Do. 112, Dept. of the Mo., 1863; Do. 15, Dept. & Army of the Tenn., 1864, (while officer of the day;) Do. 25, Dept. of the South, 1862; Do. 16, Mountain Dept., 1862; Do. 22, Dept. of the Gulf, 1863; Do. 149, Id., 1864; Do. 29, Dept. of No. Ca., 1865; Do. 14, Dept. of Ky., 1865: By indecently or unbecomingly familiar association or dealing with them, or indecent conduct in their presence;—see G. O. 10 of 1825; G. C. M. O. 665 of 1865; Do. 43, 61, of 1867; Do. 84 of 1875; Do. 173 of 1876; G. O. 49, Dept. of Washington, 1863.

In some early cases reported by James, (see pp. 206, 234,) officers were convicted of unbecoming conduct in associating on familiar terms with persons of inferior social rank,—as, (in a case of a lieutenant and an ensign,) with “a journeyman baker and a tinman’s apprentice.”

In this connection may be noted a class of cases, belonging mostly to be past, of officers charged with a violation of this Article in pusillaniously submitting to public insult or chastisement by inferiors or others, without taking any measures to vindicate themselves. See instances in Ames. 345, 654, 759, 762, 769; also *In re Poe*, 5 B. & Ad., 681. Similar cases in our service are found chiefly in G. O. between 1809 and 1812; of which the cases in G. O. of Jan. 2, 1810, Jan. 10, 1811, and March 18, 1811, were convictions. In a more recent case of this nature, published in G. O. 25, Dept. of Cal., 1871, the accused was acquitted.

1. As by defrauding soldiers of portions of their bounty money by false representations and pretences—G. C. M. O. 232, 519, of 1865: By paying a debt to a soldier by palming off property upon him of much less value, by means of false representations as to its worth—G. O. 234 of 1863: By exacting from soldiers excessive usurious interest, (25 *per cent.*), on loans made to them—G. O. of Dec. 24, 1811: By exacting from soldiers double the amount, at the next pay day, for sums of money previously loaned—G. O. 4, Dept. of the Gulf, 1866; DIGEST, 40: By ordering a sergeant to report him (the accused) present when absent—G. O. 94 of 1863: By directing a soldier to make a false statement to another officer in regard to action of the accused—G. C. M. O. 5 of 1872: By employing soldiers to perform work for his private benefit—G. O. 72 of 1836: By causing soldiers to furnish their labor to a civilian in payment of a debt due the latter by the accused—G. O. 71 of 1822: By inducing soldiers illegally to seize private property for his personal use, in time of war—G. O. 249 of 1863: By conspiring with soldiers to effect sales of public property to civilians, for personal gain and to the aid of the United States—G. C. M. O. 58 of 1868: By causing a non-commissioned officer to make a false guard report, in order to relieve him (the officer) from an imputation of neglect of duty. G. C. M. O. 3 of 1880.

2. As drawing forage for two private horses when not entitled to

Drunkenness of a gross character committed in the presen

draw for any—G. O. 22, Dept. of the Northwest, 1865: Drawing ratio for his wife and daughters as laundresses—G. O. 183 of 1863: Falsely entering on muster-rolls the names of men as enlisted by him, and causing them to be personated by other persons at the muster-in—G. O. 184 of 1863: As A. C. S., fraudulently overcharging officers and sold for commissary stores with intent to misappropriate the accruing profits—G. C. M. O. 2 of 1871: As Same, using false scales in issuing stores—G. O. 2, Dept. of the Pacific, 1864: As Same, giving to a company commander, for the amount of the company savings, a check on a bank where he had no funds—G. C. M. O. 61 of 1869: Obtaining money from civilians, and board at a hotel, by giving such checks—G. C. M. O. 1 of 1875; Do. 43 of 1870; G. O. 16, Div. of Pacific, 1866: Obtaining sums of money from citizens by transferring to them forged paymasters' checks on the Asst. Treasurer—G. O. 18, Dept. of the East, 1865: Obtaining money from a banker by falsely representing that it was for the use of the regiment—Hough, 540: Falsely denying his signature to a promissory note payable to a citizen—James, 360; Refusing to approve a citizen's vouchers for reward for arrest of deserters on the false ground that they could not be paid for some time, and thereupon buying them for much less than their face and collecting and appropriating the amounts—G. C. M. O. 71 of 1867: Extorting money from citizens—G. O. 16, Mountain Dept., 1862: Selling to an officer a public horse falsely representing it to be private property—G. C. M. O. 493 of 1867; Do. 100 of 1867: Attempting to sell to another officer a public horse—G. C. M. O. 6 of 1865; Do. 46 of 1870: Attempting to pass the guard with a forged pass and by an assumed name—G. O. 5, Army of the Potomac, 1863: Giving a false name to an officer of the provost guard on being arrested—G. O. 3, Army of the Potomac, 1862: Falsely availing himself of a leave of absence intended for another officer—G. O. 234 of 1863: Altering, so as to extend, a leave of absence—G. O. 1, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1869: Denying that he was an officer of the army, when absent from his regiment on an expired leave—G. O. 1 of 1863. By false representations retaining possession of certain personal effects of another officer, and pledging the same as security for the payment of a bill for board—G. C. M. O. 20 of 1868: Cheating at cards with other officers—G. O. 11 of 1849; Do. 6 of 1856: (And see case in Jan. p. 744, of a violation of this Article in conspiring to involve a young lord in deep play, and winning from him upwards of £1500.) Cheating a soldier of three dollars at cards—G. O. 25, Dept. of the South, 1864: "Displaying a want of veracity"—James, 397: Becoming, as quartermaster, corruptly interested in public contracts, and receiving large sums as part of the proceeds—G. C. M. O. 57 of 1870: Paying a contractor the face of a false voucher for an amount greater than was due and receiving back from him the balance—G. C. M. O. 31 of 1868: Taking money from substitute agents for approving their appointments—G. C. M. O. 303 of 1865: Taking bribes from, and aiding and acting in complicity with, substitute brokers—G. C. M. O. 565 of 1865: Furnishing substitutes for drafted men for a compensation—G. O. 17, Dept. of the East, 1864: Do. 10, Dept. of the Susquehanna, 1864: Taking bribes to allow civilians to pass the picket line—G. O. 48, Dept. of

of military inferiors, or characterized by some peculiarly shameful conduct or disgraceful exhibition of himself by the accused.¹

Drunkenness, or indulgence in intoxicating liquor, after a formal *pledge* given to a commanding officer to abstain from such indulgence.²

Engaging in unseemly altercations or broils with military per-

Gulf, 1863: The same, to allow them to pass goods within the lines—G. O. 9, Dept. of Va., 1863: Receiving money in consideration for the appointment of a person as lieutenant in the regiment in which the accused was colonel—G. O. 33, Dept. of No. Ca., 1865: Offering money and promotion to two inferior officers in consideration of their not pressing charges against the accused—*Id.*: Making a corrupt proposition to a quartermaster to induce him to permit the accused to keep and use a public horse as his private property—G. C. M. O. 54 of 1873: Secretly proposing to a civilian to join in a transaction for making a profit upon arms to be furnished by the U. S. to the States—G. O. 5 of 1856: Paying money in consideration of services rendered in procuring the appointment of his son to the Naval Academy—G. O. 156, Navy Dept., 1870: Corruptly soliciting and receiving money for procuring a contract for transportation of troops to be awarded to a certain steamship company—G. C. M. O. 9 of 1879.

1. See cases of convictions in the following Orders:—G. O. 72 of 1836; Do. 6 of 1840; Do. 1 of 1847; Do. 35, 52, 156, 187, 199, 261, 380, of 1863; Do. 36, 64, 72, of 1864; G. C. M. O. 100, 109, 114, of 1864; Do. 240, 472, 599, of 1865; Do. 15 of 1866; Do. 3, 5, 35, 43, 58, 59, of 1867; Do. 22, 45, 49, 62, of 1868; Do. 4, 23, 27, 37, 48, 53, 60, of 1869; Do. 5, 10, 15, 28, 53, of 1870; Do. 13 of 1871; Do. 4, 30, of 1872; Do. 21, 43, of 1873; Do. 41, 82, 88, of 1874; Do. 9, 33, 34, 58, 84, of 1875; Do. 39, 46, 55, 57, 58, 61, 75, of 1877; Do. 12, 39, 53, of 1878; Do. 59 of 1879; Do. 42, 50, of 1880; Do. 32, 59, 63, of 1881; Do. 49 of 1883; G. O. 4, Army of the Potomac, 1861; Do. 17, 81, *Id.*, 1862; Do. 4, *Id.*, 1863; Do. 52, Dept. of Washington, 1863; Do. 97, *Id.*, 1864; Do. 175, Dept. of the Ohio, 1863; Do. 57, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1863; Do. 54, *Id.*, 1864. And see Hough, 634; James, 106, 119, 250; DIGEST, 39.

That a mere act of drunkenness, unaccompanied by any unseemly behaviour, violence, or disorder, would not, in general, properly be charged under this Article, is pointed out in G. O. 97 & 111, Army of the Potomac, 1862. Of the cases above cited, nearly all were of a gross character; most of the offences being committed in places of public resort, as on the street, in hotels, "saloons," theatres, &c., or in the presence of military persons at the officer's post or station, and under circumstances of aggravation.

2. The "pledge" is properly in writing and is generally expressed to be "on honor." It commonly recites that it is given in consideration of having charges for previous acts of drunkenness withdrawn or suspended, or of being released from an arrest, imposed with a view to trial upon such charges. See instances of these pledges and of convictions of this offence in the following Orders:—G. C. M. O. 3 of 1867; Do. 9, 49, of 1868; Do. 23 of 1869; Do. 13, 28, of 1871; Do. 53 of 1873; Do. 73 of 1874; Do. 6, 21, 55, 58, 67, 103, of 1875; Do. 5, 24, 164, of 1876; Do. 30, 47, of 1878; Do. 36, 44, 74, of 1877; Do. 42, 62,

sons or civilians, breaches of the peace, or other disorderly violent conduct of a disreputable character in public.¹

Defiance of, or gross disrespect toward, the civil authorities.²

Doing wanton injury to the property of civilians.³

Open ill treatment of his wife.⁴ Attempt to obtain a divorce through fraud, &c.⁵

Offending against good morals, in violation of the local law of public decency and propriety.⁶

Commission of felony or crime.⁷

of 1880; Do. 3 of 1881; Do. 49 of 1883; Do. 31, Navy Dept., 1882; 18, Id., 1885; G. O. 161, Dept. of Washington, 1865. And see case conviction, in G. C. M. O. 63 of 1876, where the pledge violated "on honor as an officer and a gentleman" not to enter a gambling loon or gamble, and was given on obtaining from the commander a pension of action upon a pending charge preferred for a violation of previous similar pledge.

1. See cases in G. O. 20 of 1859; G. C. M. O. 599 of 1865; Do. of 1866; Do. 5 of 1867; Do. 22 of 1868; Do. 4, 23, of 1869; Do. 1870; Do. 30 of 1872; Do. 58, 84, of 1875; Do. 64 of 1877; G. O. Dept. of the Mo., 1862; Do. 57, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1863; 54, Id., 1864; Do. 11, Dept. of Miss., 1866; Hough, 505, 542; Jar 305, 574, 689,

2. See case of grossly disrespectful and insulting conduct toward a judge of the U. S. Dist. Court, in G. O. 22 of 1845: Also case of aggravated interference with, and resistance of, police officers engaged in the performance of their duty, in G. C. M. O. 103 of 1866.

3. See case in G. O. 111, Dept. of Washington, 1864.

4. See cases of assaulting and abusing of his wife by an officer at military post, in G. C. M. O. 17 of 1871; Do. 63 of 1881; G. O. 1, Dept. of Miss., 1866; DIGEST, 41.

5. DIGEST, 41.

6. As by abandonment of legal wife and committing of bigamy—G. C. M. O. 14 of 1879; DIGEST, 41: Introducing in camp, or at post, &c., passing off as his wife, a woman who was not such—G. C. M. O. 26 of 1864; James, 696: Insulting language or behaviour to, or indecent assault upon, a respectable woman—G. C. M. O. 249 of 1863; Do. 35 of 1869; Do. 21 of 1869; Do. 13 of 1871; Do. 12 of 1874; Do. 33 of 1875; G. O. 52, Dept. of Washington, 1863; Do. 52, Middle Dept., 1863. And G. C. M. O. 15 of 1871: Public association or gross conduct with numerous prostitutes—G. O. 187, 380, of 1863; G. C. M. O. 74, 92, of 1863; Do. 33, 46, of 1870; Do. 88 of 1874; Do. 46 of 1877; Do. 61 of 1880. O. 17, Army of the Potomac, 1862; Do. 14, Dept. of the Ohio, 1863. Do. 19, Dept. of the Gulf, 1863: Frequenting houses of ill fame in uniform—G. O. 74 of 1864; G. C. M. O. 88 of 1874; Do. 13 of 1879; O. 11, Dept. of Miss., 1866: Visiting gambling houses and gambling in uniform—G. C. M. O. 34 of 1880: Unauthorized intrusion at night upon the privacy of an officer's family—G. C. M. O. 20 of 1880.

7. That an officer was properly chargeable under this Article if

Scope of the Article as distinguished from Art. 62.

It is to be remarked that while Art. 62 is intended to cover only offences not cognizable under the other Articles, Art. 61 embraces offences made punishable by *any other Article*, provided such offences be characterized in their commission by circumstances so dishonorable or disgraceful as to bring them within the definition of "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman." Thus while the conduct involved in some of the more strictly military offences, such as desertion or mutiny, could scarcely properly become chargeable under this Article, there are many other offences punishable in the code, such as the making of false musters, certificates or returns, together with embezzlement and other offences set forth in Art. 60, which, under certain circumstances, would very properly be presented under both Articles—Art. 61 and the specific Article in which the act is described or named. But unless such act clearly and directly compromises the individual as a *gentleman* as well as in his military capacity, the charge of "conduct unbecoming," &c., should be omitted.

Procedure—Charge. The offence not being described in the Article except merely by its technical name, the general rule that the constituents of the offence should be fully averred in the specification, applies with peculiar force to this charge.¹ An act which perhaps would not fall within the description of this Article, if concealed or private, may become properly chargeable thereunder if committed in the presence of enlisted men or other military inferiors, or in a public place, or even in uniform. Where so characterized the fact should be specifically stated.² So, the purpose or motive of the accused in the conduct complained of should be set forth wherever it is his *animus* which has rendered his alleged acts unbecoming, &c.

felonious homicide, or other crime punishable by the laws of the land, was held by the Attorney General in Steiner's case, in VI Opins., 415; and in a case in G. C. M. O. 28 of 1873, a murder of a civilian by an officer was charged as a military offence under Art. 61, and the conviction of the accused and his sentence of dismissal were approved by the President. Similarly officers have been charged and tried under this Article for stealing from other officers, (G. O. 4 of 1864; G. C. M. O. 149 of 1864; Do. 23, 164, of 1865;) stealing from citizens, (G. O. 249 of 1863;) receiving from soldiers, and keeping property known to be stolen, (G. O. 204 of 1863; Do. 36 of 1864;) robbery, (G. O. 6, Dept. of Ky., 1865.)

1. Samuel, 646; Tytler, 212; O'Brien, 160; G. O. 111, Army of the Potomac, 1862.

A charge under this Article, involving as it does an imputation of disgraceful or dishonorable conduct, and entailing, upon conviction, the penalty of dismissal, should not wantonly be preferred.¹ An officer carelessly making this accusation against another renders himself liable to have his action severely animadverted upon by the court or reviewing authority, or, in a proper case, be himself brought to trial for initiating a causeless and injurious prosecution.²

Finding. That the accused, under the charge of "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman," may, where the evidence falls short of establishing the specific offence but shows the commission of a disorder or neglect, be found by the court "not guilty" but "guilty of conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline"—has been fully set forth in Chapter on the Finding.³

An acquittal under this charge, (affecting as it does the honor of the accused,) is one which it may be especially proper to render "honorable" in terms.⁴ Here also, where the charge has been clearly malicious or wantonly preferred, it will be especially fitting for the court to characterize it accordingly in connection with the acquittal.⁵

Sentence. The Article makes mandatory the sentence of dismissal upon conviction. This injunction is construed to mean not only that dismissal must in every case be adjudged⁶ but that no other punishment may be adjudged in connection with it. The Article being thus exclusive, a sentence under it, which assumes to impose any other penalty in addition to dismissal, is

1. See remarks of Gen. Meade in G. C. M. O. 45, Army of the Potomac, 1864.

2. Hough, 505, 533.

3. Chapter XIX, p. 544.

4. Hough, 504.

5. Hough, 504-5, 533-4; James, 35, 203, 727.

6. This sentence must be adjudged though the majority of the court may prefer a lighter one. "The law in this case affixes the punishment and it is the province of the revising power, and not that of the court to mitigate it according to circumstances." G. O. 41 of 1852. When the court regard the mandatory sentence as disproportionately severe for the offence, the members may annex to the record a recommendation that the punishment be mitigated.

to such additional penalty, invalid and inoperative, and will properly be, so far, disapproved.¹

XXVII. THE SIXTY-SECOND ARTICLE.

[CONDUCT TO THE PREJUDICE OF GOOD ORDER AND MILITARY DISCIPLINE.]

"ART. 62. *All crimes not capital, and all disorders and neglects, which officers and soldiers may be guilty of, to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, though not mentioned in the foregoing articles of war, are to be taken cognizance of by a general, or a regimental, garrison, or field-officers' court-martial, according to the nature and degree of the offence, and punished at the discretion of such court.*"

General Purpose and Use. This provision, taken originally from the British military law,² was in substance incorporated in our first code of 1775, and has similarly appeared in each subsequent issue of our Articles of war.³ As will be illustrated in construing its separate terms, its evident purpose was to provide for the trial and punishment of any and all military offences not expressly made cognizable by courts-martial in the other and more specific Articles, and thus to prevent the possibility of a failure of justice in the army.⁴ In practice, the greater number of the charges that are preferred against soldiers, and a large proportion of those preferred against officers, are based upon this, the "*general*" article of the code. Wherever the offence committed is

1. See G. C. M. O. 396 of 1865; DIGEST, 41.

2. In the Articles of the Earl of Essex, (1642,) the form is—"All other faults, disorders and offences, not mentioned in these Articles, shall be punished according to the general customs and laws of war." In Art. 64 of the Code of James II the provision is worded as follows:—"All other faults, misdemeanors and disorders, not mentioned in these Articles, shall be punished according to the laws and customs of war and discretion of the Court-Martial; Provided that no punishment amounting to the loss of life or limb be inflicted upon any offender in time of peace, although the same be allotted for the said offence by these Articles and the laws and customs of war."

3. The only material change has been the mention, in the Article of 1874, of the field officer's court.

4. A corresponding provision is contained in the Naval code in Art. 22.

one not certainly, or fully, designated or described in some particular Article, or where, though so designated, no punishment is assigned for its commission, or where it is doubtful under which of two or more Articles the offender should be prosecuted, recourse is had to this comprehensive and sensible provision as the authority and foundation for the charges and proceedings.¹

Construction—"All crimes." The term "crimes," in its ordinary sense, imports, in the language of Bishop,² "those wrongs which the government notices as injurious to the public, and which it punishes in what is called a criminal proceeding in its own name." As employed in the present Article, where it is evidently distinguished as indicating a separate class of acts from the orders and neglects³ next named, this word is understood to refer to the crimes—felonies other than capital and misdemeanors created or made punishable by the common law or the statutes of the United States.³ These civil crimes,—when and *prosecuted* as will presently be more particularly noticed, they are committed under circumstances rendering them prejudicial not only to good order but also to military discipline,—the Article contemplates military offences, and authorizes their trial and punishment by military courts. And, in time of *peace*, it is only or mainly under this Article that such crimes are so cognizable; the

1. "It will be obvious that there is scarcely any impropriety or defect, or irregularity, which an officer or soldier may commit, that is not brought under" this Article. Kennedy, 34. "It is the more useful of the whole." Napier, 59.

2. 1 Crim. Law § 32.

3. The term "crimes" is thus used in a sense similar to that in which it is employed in Art. 59, (see under that Article, *ante*;) as also in the Constitution. (See *In re Fetter*, 3 Zab. 311.) O'Brien writes, p. 16: "The crimes must be such as declared by the known criminal law of the land: the court are not authorized to legislate or to declare that a crime is criminal which the ordinary civil law has not thus declared." In Owen, 9 B. & Cres., 579, the term "crimes," as used in the corresponding British Article, is held to mean civil crimes and misdemeanors.

4. Larceny and embezzlement of public property are punished under Art. 60; and under Art. 61 an officer may in some cases be charged with a civil crime as "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman." Otherwise it is only under Art. 62 that such crimes, when affecting military discipline, be taken cognizance of. See DR. 27, 37, 42.

diction conferred by Art. 58 being limited in its exercise to time of war, &c.

"Not capital." The Article, by these words, expressly excludes from the jurisdiction of courts-martial, and, by necessary implication, reserves for the cognizance of the civil courts, (in time of peace,) all capital crimes of officers or soldiers under whatever circumstances committed—whether upon or against military persons or civilians. By *capital* crimes is to be understood crimes punished or made *punishable* with death¹ by the common law, or by a statute of the United States applicable to the case,—as, for example, murder,² arson, or rape.

The exclusion being absolute, the capital crime, however nearly it may have affected the discipline of the service, cannot be any more legally adjudicated *indirectly* than *directly*. A court-martial cannot take cognizance of a case of homicide charged as "manslaughter" or otherwise when the averments of the specification set forth a case of murder. So where, the specification being incomplete or ambiguous, the *evidence* on the trial shows the act thus charged, or charged as "conduct to the prejudice," &c., to have been in fact a murder, the court should refuse to proceed, or, if it assume to do so and to find or sentence, its proceedings should be disapproved as *coram non judice* and void in law.³

1. See Chapter XVIII—"Testimony by Deposition."

2. In G. C. M. O. 3 of 1871, in a case of a conviction of an offence amounting to murder charged under this Article, it is announced by the Secretary of War that—"the proceedings are set aside as null and void, for the reason that murder, being a capital crime, is not legally cognizable by a court-martial." And to a similar effect, see G. O. 18, Dept. of the Mo., 1861; Do. 104, Army of the Potomac, 1862; Do. 17, Dept. of Va., 1863; Do. 89, Dept. of the Gulf, 1863; Do. 14, Dept. of Dakota, 1868; G. C. M. O. 28, Dept. of Texas, 1875; 1 Clode, M. F., 519; Harcourt, 61; VII Opins. At. Gen., 334; DIGEST, 42. And compare G. O. 68, A. & I. G. O., Richmond, 1863.

3. In G. C. M. O. 28, Dept. of Texas, 1875, in a case of a soldier convicted of a homicide of another soldier, charged under this article as "manslaughter," but alleged in the specification to have been committed with malice, the reviewing authority, Gen. Ord, disapproved the proceedings relating to this charge and specification "as null and void *ab initio*; the actual offence, as set forth in the specification and established by the proof, being premeditated murder, and therefore not cognizable by a general court-martial under the 99th (now 62d) Article. This principle"—it is added—"has been enunciated by the Judge Advocate General in similar cases and has been concurred in by the Sec-

"All disorders and neglects." In this comprehensive are included all such insubordination; disrespectful or insolent language or behaviour towards superiors or inferiors in violence; immorality; dishonesty; fraud or falsification; drunkenness; turbulent, wanton, mutinous, or irregular conduct; violating standing orders, regulations, or instructions; neglect or omission of official or routine duty, or failure to fully or properly perform it;—in fine all such "sins of commission or omission,"² on the part either of officers or soldiers as, on the one hand, do not fall within the category of the "crimes" previously designated, and on the other hand, are not expressly made punishable in the other ("foregoing") *specific* Articles of the code, which are being clearly prejudicial to good order and military discipline.

Neglect with reference to orders. It has already been noticed, in considering Art. 21, that a neglect to comply with a standing order or direction, as well as a mere failure—distinguished from a deliberate refusal or omission—to obey a general or special order, is in general properly charged not under the 21st but under the present Article.³

Drunkenness as a disorder. Among "disorders," it should be noted here that simple *drunkenness* is in general a military offence in violation of this Article, whether committed by an officer or soldier. Samuel⁴ declares:—"It is not to be understood that drunkenness of itself is not a crime in the contemplation

of the Secretary of War." A ruling to a similar effect was made by the Secretary of War in May, 1873, in a case, (promulgated in G. C. M. O. 21, Dept. of War, 1873,) where the charge was "Homicidal violence, to the prejudice of good order and military discipline." And see DIGEST, 42.

In a few cases indeed where the accused, though charged with drunkenness, has been acquitted, or convicted of manslaughter only, the proceedings, apparently from considerations of justice, have been approved by the reviewing officer. See instances in G. C. M. O. 45, E. Texas, 1871; Do. 2, Id., 1872. But an accused, thus convicted, cannot be entitled, if raising the question, to have the entire proceedings declared void and inoperative.

1. "Neglects" include "the improperly executing an order or the not taking proper precaution, or doing the best according to the ability and judgment of the party." Hough, 633.

2. Hough, (P.) 270.

3. DIGEST, 9, 10.

4. Page 552. "Mere private drunkenness, with no act beyond the common law is indictable at the common law. * * * Still the common law

the law martial. On the contrary it has always been a more heinous offence in the military than in the civil code." Hough's remarks that—"it ought never to be absent from the recollection of the soldier that drunkenness constitutes of itself a breach of military discipline." So, in reviewing a case of an officer,² Gen. Crook well observes: "Drunkenness by persons in the military service is an offence against good order and military discipline whenever and wherever it occurs." And it has been repeatedly held in the General Orders that drunkenness, not on duty, is conduct to be charged under the present Article.³ There can indeed rarely be an occasion when a soldier, or an officer, in camp or at a military post, may become intoxicated, and thus incapacitated for properly answering a call for duty, without rendering himself liable to be treated as an offender within the terms of Art. 62. Whether the act, when committed under other circumstances, as where the party is at a station which is not a military post, or is travelling, or is on a pass, &c., may properly be charged as a military offence, will depend upon the relation and effect which such act may have, under the circumstances, to the military service and upon military discipline.

"To the prejudice of good order and military discipline." This descriptive phrase is so familiar to military persons that it hardly need be explained that "prejudice" is used here in the sense of detriment, depreciation or injuriously affecting.

The term "good order,"—inasmuch as most of the cases contemplated by the Article are cases of *military* neglects and disorders,—may be regarded as referring mainly to the order—*i. e.* condition of tranquillity, security and good government—of the military service.⁴ Inasmuch, however, as civil wrongs, such as

ways regarded drunkenness as being in a certain sense criminal. * * * Our jurisprudence deems it *malum in se*." 1 Bishop, C. L. § 399, 403. Compare Chapter XVII, as to Drunkenness as a Defence.

1. Page 95. And see Harcourt, 54.
2. In G. C. M. O. 47, Dept. of the Platte, 1876.
3. See cases in G. O. 14, Dept. of the Mo., 1864; Do. 131, Second Mil. Dist., 1867; Do. 5, Dept. of the South, 1868; G. C. M. O. 75, 78, of 1877.
4. The term is commonly applied in this sense, and as being practically analogous to *discipline*, in the General Orders. See G. C. M. O. 3 of 1871; Do. 27, Dept. of the Platte, 1875; G. O. 59, Dept. of Washington, 1866; Do. 96, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1868; also XVI Opins. Ar. Gen., 578, (referring to the corresponding naval Article.)

injuries to citizens or breaches of the discipline, be cognizable by courts-martial, the term "good order" may be deemed to include, with the order of the military, that also of the civil community.

By the term "to the prejudice," & *rectly* prejudicial, not *indirectly* or *regular* or improper act on the part of an officer, be conceived which may not be regarded in remote sense or manner prejudicing the public, it is hardly to be supposed that the Article is confined to cases in which the prejudice is *palpable*.

General application of the term "Crimes" to the prejudice.—The construction that the words, "to the prejudice of the military discipline," are of general application, and that only the term "disorders and neglects" is added as well.¹ A crime, therefore, under this Article, must be such circumstances as to have dishonoured the government and discipline of the military. Crimes as theft from or robbery of an officer or camp-follower; forgery of the national seal, slaughter, assault with intent to kill,

1. DIGEST, 42. And see Samuel, 687; Harcourt, 58; O'Brien, 163; XVI Opins. In the corresponding Article of the last code of British Army, the present Army Act, the above interpretation is made clear by the following punctuation: All crimes of conduct, disorders and neglects,—which an officer may be guilty of to the prejudice of good order.

2. Where not of the species made punishable by the Act, the forgeries have been chiefly committed by the post trader.

3. And so of criminal *attempts* and *conspiracies*. A soldier to poison his wife, (G. C. M. O. 23, 1865;) a conspiracy of thirteen soldiers to commit robbery, (The Miss., 1865;) a conspiracy of two soldiers to commit murder, (G. C. M. O. 28, Dept. of the Mo., 1880.) *aiding and abetting in crime.* (G. C. M. O. 5, 1865.)

d upon a military person; inasmuch as they directly affect any relations and prejudice military discipline, may properly as they frequently have been—the subject of charges under present Article. On the other hand, where such crimes are committed upon or against *civilians*, and not at or near a military post, or in breach or violation of a military duty or order, they are not in general to be regarded as within the description of the Article, but are to be treated as civil rather than military offences.¹

DIGEST, 43. In the early G. O. 22 of 1833, a charge which set simply a stealing without describing it as in any manner affecting military person or the public service, was held not to allege a military offence, and the conviction thereon was disapproved. In G. O. 59, Dept. of the Army, 1866, Gen. Canby well observed, in regard to theft of property, that it—"is not a military crime *per se*, but only as it is, and to the extent that it does affect, the good order and discipline of the command in which it was committed." And to the same effect, see G. O. 8, Dept. of the Columbia, 1872. In a case in G. C. M. O. 58, Dept. of the Platte, 1872, where the accused was charged with and convicted of theft, to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, in the property of a civilian, Gen. Ord., in disapproving the proceedings, adds: "The specification does not allege a military offence." The charge is "one against the civil law, and not against any law or regulation governing the military." In G. C. M. O. 27, Dept. of the Platte, in a case where the offence consisted in an embezzlement of money from a civilian, Gen. Crook, in disapproving the findings, &c., says: "The findings fail to exhibit any offence to any person or thing connected with the military service. Therefore the jurisdiction of the court-martial in the case fails. The evidence does not show that the person, (the name named in the specification,) was related to or connected with the military service in any capacity whatever. The 'crimes, disorders, and offences,' referred to" in this Article "are such only as affect the good order and discipline of the military service." [Citing DIGEST.] In G. O. 1, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1867, Gen. Thomas disapproves the findings in two cases in which the accused were charged with assault with intent to kill, robbery and rape, committed upon civilians on the ground that the offences were "of a purely civil character," and as called for the action of a "civil tribunal." In Bird's case, G. C. M. O. 3, War Dept., 1871, already referred to as one of murder, pronounced by the Secretary of War, as one of the grounds upon which the proceedings are set aside, that the accused, at the time of his offence, "held no such practical relations to the military service as to connect his acts with its good order or discipline." And see G. C. M. O. 1, Dept. of the Mo., 1869; Do. 5, Dept. of Texas, 1871; Do. 85, Dept. of Dakota, 1874.

Otherwise, where the crime, though committed against a civilian, is a violation of orders and breach of military duty. Thus, in *Ex parte* 1, 105 U. S., 698, the Supreme Court, in holding that the offence charged was "not only a crime against society but an atrocious breach

A strict rule on this subject, however in practice; and, especially as the cognizance of crimes when commanders generally lean to the sustainment of courts-martial in cases of crimes so committed, particularly when committed on the field of battle, can be viewed as affecting, *in any manner*, the discipline of the command—a general, in the judgment of the author, prescribed by the Department, &c., commander,

“Though not mentioned in the war.” The construction of these words is that they are words of limitation, restricting the Article to offences not named or included in the preceding; the policy of the provision is, in the words of Samuel,² “to provide a general remedy

of military discipline,” adds—“While the offender was not himself connected with the military service, and the offence was committed when he was on duty, and shot was on military duty at the time, a violation of the orders under which he was acting.”

1. Thus the jurisdiction has not unfrequently been exercised in cases of offence committed upon a civilian or in the exercise of military jurisdiction, or at or in the immediate vicinity of a military post, or elsewhere where civil justice could not be obtained. Instances in G. O. 6 of 1858; Do. 20, Dept. of Texas, 1873; Do. 19, Dept. of California, 1870; Do. 4, Id., 1871; Do. 35, Dept. of the Gulf, 1875; Do. 46, Id., 1876.

The fact that the offence was committed in the exercise of military jurisdiction generally been regarded as a fact going to establish the cognizability of the offence under this Article.

In a recent case of this class, promulgated by the War Department, the Columbia, 1885, in which the proceedings were taken by the Dept. Commander, (Gen. Miles,) to determine whether the court had proper jurisdiction in a case of robbery by soldiers of civilians on the road to Vancouver Barracks, W. T. An elaborate opinion of his action in the case was thereupon put forth, and the action was held to be legal and regular by the War Department. General, Col. Lieber, (to whom the question was referred,) gave his opinion of Aug. 10, 1885. This opinion was sustained by the War on Nov. 20th following, and the jurisdiction was finally sustained.

2. Page 688. And see Id., 689.

provided for." Or, as Coppée¹ observes,—“This Article is intended to be supplementary to all the others, and to provide a general charge under which every possible kind of offence not provided for may be ranged.”

This very general description of the offences within the scope of the Article, as being simply those which are “not mentioned” in the other Articles, is characteristic of the military as distinguished from the civil code where all offences are separately defined. Its indefiniteness, however, presents little difficulty to the student of military law who has familiarized himself with the precedents contained in the General Orders.²

It is to be observed of the term “not mentioned in the foregoing articles,” that it embraces not only offences wholly distinct from and outside of previous designations and enumerations, but also, (1) acts which, while of the same general nature as those included in certain specific Articles, are wanting in some single characteristic which distinguishes the latter,—as, for example, the disrespectful behaviour to a superior who is not a commander, the disobedience of the orders of a non-commissioned officer, the mutinous conduct, the drunkenness *off* duty, and the embezzlement or misappropriation of *private* property, heretofore referred to as *not* included within Arts. 20, 21, 22, 38 and 60 respectively; as also acts similar to those described in Arts. 3, 5, 8, 14, 15, 16, 27, 50 and 60, but which lack the *gravamen* expressed in the term, “knowingly,” “wilfully,” or the like; (2) acts which, though in terms or in effect *prohibited* in other Articles, are not expressly made punishable thereby—such as the acts or neglects indicated in Arts. 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 25, 29, 30, 67, 70, 84, 85, 87, 127, and, in part, in Arts. 54 and 55; and (3) acts made specifically punishable in other Articles but only when committed by

1. Page 88. To a similar effect, see Hough, 630; Harcourt, 58; O'Brien, 165. It is the fact that the Article provides for the punishment of offences which the other specific Articles have failed to embrace—thus rendering it impossible for the soldier to escape the consequences of any military offence which he may commit—that has given it the name in the British army of the “Devil's Article.”

As apposite to the term “foregoing,” it may be remarked that the present Article, (unlike Art. 99 of 1806,) is not in the proper place in the code. It should have been inserted after *all* the Articles setting forth specific offences, and therefore after Arts. 65, 68 and 69.

2. See the remarks of the Supreme Court in *Dynes v. Hoover*, 20 Howard, 82, in reference to the corresponding Article of the naval code.

persons of a grade other than that of the accused,—as, for example, absence without leave by officers, and breach of arms by soldiers, which are not included in Arts. 32 and 65, because Articles relate to offences by enlisted men and officers respectively, only.¹

Illustrations of Neglects and Disorders charged under the Article. As indicating the species of offences, other “crimes,” which, in practice, have been brought to trial under Art. 62, it will be instructive to note some of the more prominent the many and varied instances of “neglects” and “disorders” to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, published in the General Orders, or referred to by military authorities as follows:—

In cases of officers. Failing without excuse to be present at his command, or to exercise command, on occasions of duty.
Failing to suppress, or to attempt to suppress, disorders in his command.⁴

Failing to restore and maintain the public peace on the occasion of a riot which he was called upon to suppress.⁵

Abuse of authority in assaulting, or illegally inflicting punishment upon, soldiers.⁶

1. This class of acts, as properly chargeable under the corresponding British Article, is noticed in *Mann v. Owen*, 9 B. & Cres. 600.

2. The acts specified do not include of course the manifold offences of soldiers, such as absences without leave, ordinary breach of duty, drunken and disorderly behaviour, &c., habitually tried and punished by the inferior courts-martial.

3. G. C. M. O. 39 of 1877. And see Do. 38, 58, Id.; DIGEST, also case in Do. 50, 59, Navy Dept., 1882, (under the corresponding Article,) of an officer who left his command without authority, when epidemic, (yellow fever,) was impending. Absence without leave of officers of the army, is in general properly chargeable under this Article. See *ante*—“Thirty-Second Article.”

4. G. O. 3, Dept. & Army of the Tenn., 1877; Do. 5, Dept. Mo., 1864; Hough, (P.) 187.

5. Case of Lt. Col. Brereton and Capt. Warrington, charged with neglect of duty at the “Bristol Riots” in 1831. (Col. Brereton committed suicide pending the trial; Capt. Warrington was sentenced to be hanged.) Hough, (P.) 578–584; Clode, 2 M. F., 478.

6. G. O. 81 of 1822; Do. 8 of 1826; Do. 28 of 1829; Do. 2, 17, 1843; Do. 39 of 1845; G. C. M. O. 80, 114, of 1875; Do. 112, Dept. East, 1870; Do. 50, Dept. of the Mo., 1871; Do. 35, Dept. of Texas, Do. 39, Id., 1874; Do. 33, Id., 1876; G. O. 9, Div. of the Atlantic,

Allowing a soldier to go on duty when known to be materially under the influence of liquor.¹

Employment of soldiers for personal, or other illegal uses.²

Exceeding limits of arrest.³

Rendering himself unfit for duty by excessive use of spirituous liquors.⁴

Joining with other inferior officers of the regiment in a communication to the colonel, requesting him to resign.⁵

Tendering his resignation in disloyal language.⁶ Expressing disloyal sentiments.⁷

Publications, in newspapers, pamphlets, &c., of strictures upon the acts or conduct, official or personal, of other officers.⁸

Taking part in meetings convened for the purpose of expressing disapprobation of the orders or acts of superiors.⁹

Betting at cards by a disbursing officer.¹⁰

Do. 5, Id., 1870; Do. 20, Div. of the Pacific, 1869; Do. 53, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1864; Do. 22, Dept. of the Platte, 1867. And see G. O. 23 of 1824; Do. 34 of 1842; Do. 4 of 1843; Do. 2 of 1844; Do. 32, Div. of the Pacific, 1867; Hough, 634. See also G. O. 2 of 1861, for a case of a conviction of an officer for the arbitrary imprisonment and ill-treatment of a sutler. And note case in G. C. M. O. 7 of 1880, of harassing junior cadets.

1. G. C. M. O. 29, Dept. of Texas, 1881.

2. G. C. M. O. 65, of 1874. And see the case of employment, for private purposes, of freedmen under military protection, in G. C. M. O. 213 of 1866.

3. See G. C. M. O. 37, Dept. of Texas, 1874.

4. G. C. M. O. 58 of 1879; Do. 64 of 1880; Do. 49 of 1883.

5. DIGEST, 44. And see case in G. C. M. O. 116, Dept. of the East, 1884, of a conspiring by two officers to injure their commanding officers, found as an offence under this Article.

6. G. O. 35, Dept. of the Tenn., 1863.

7. G. O. 242, 377, of 1863; Do. 38, Middle Dept., 1863; Do. 35, Dept. of the Tenn., 1863; Do. 76, Dept. of Washington, 1865; Hough, 634.

8. G. O. 150 of 1863; G. C. M. O. 26 of 1878; Do. 35 of 1879; Do. 37 of 1885; G. O. 20, Dept. of W. Va., 1863; DIGEST, 44, 458. And see Lieut. Kennon's Trial, p. 8.

In connection with these cases may be noticed those of making alleged false or injurious official statements, preferring false charges, and the like, charged as violations of Art. 61, but *found* as offences under Art. 62. See G. C. M. O. 71 of 1879; Do. 51 of 1882; Do. 19 of 1885; Do. 116, Dept. of the East, 1884.

9. Harcourt, 95.

10. G. C. M. O. 18 of 1871. And see DIGEST, 46, as to speculating by a disbursing officer.

Fighting a duel.¹ Inciting another officer to challenge him to a duel.²

Altercation with another officer in the presence of inferiors.³

Disrespectful and insulting language to a superior officer, in the presence of officers and soldiers, while all were held confined as prisoners of war by the enemy.⁴

Interference with or disrespect toward a sentinel.⁵ Treating with disrespect and contempt an officer of the provost guard at Washington.⁶

Gambling, or otherwise demeaning himself, with enlisted men.⁷

Entering into illegal combinations with other officers or soldiers.⁸

Causing troops to be transported on a steamer known to be unsafe.⁹

Neglecting the sick, or culpable malpractice, by a surgeon.¹⁰

Inexcusable neglect by a chaplain to perform funeral services.¹¹

Ordering a garrison court to try a capital offence, and putting the members in arrest because the court decided it had no jurisdiction of the same.¹²

As a *member of a court-martial*—improperly disclosing the proceedings had in secret session;¹³ refusing to vote a punishment after conviction;¹⁴ appearing drunk before the court, or behaving disrespectfully to the court:¹⁵ As a *witness*—failing to comply

1. DIGEST, 14.

2. DIGEST, 45.

3. G. O. 169, Dept. of Washington, 1865.

4. G. C. M. O. 425 of 1865.

5. DIGEST, 454.

6. G. O. 3, Army of the Potomac, 1861.

7. G. O. 46 of 1848. And see Do. 88, Army of the Potomac, 1862. (Sometimes charged under Art. 61—see that Article—*ante*.)

8. G. C. M. O. 602 of 1865. (Case of Bvt. Brig. Gen. Briscoe.)

9. DIGEST, 45.

10. G. O. 64 of 1827; Do. 3 of 1856; G. C. M. O. 18 of 1877; Hough, (P.) 275.

11. G. O. 96, Army of the Potomac, 1862.

12. G. O. 10 of 1857. (Capt. Howe's case.)

13. G. C. M. O. 113, Dept. of the Mo., 1868.

14. See Hough, (P.) 277-9; DIGEST, 447.

15. See G. O. 1 of 1858; G. C. M. O. 9, Fourth Mil. Dist., 1867.

with a summons;¹ testifying falsely under oath;² using disrespectful language, or behaving disrespectfully or contumaciously to the court;³ As an *accused*, (or *counsel* for an accused,) transcending the privilege of the defence or "statement" by indulging in unwarrantable strictures upon a superior officer, or gross personalities;⁴ attempting to suborn⁵ or to intimidate⁶ witnesses.

Contempt of court, where not punished summarily under Art. 86.⁷

Neglect of official duties, in leaving the preparation of vouchers, payment of employees, &c., to an unfaithful clerk.⁸ Neglect of public animals in his charge.⁹ Neglect of duty and inefficiency in service against Indians.¹⁰ Neglect to make proper investigation as member of board of survey.¹¹

Violation of special paragraphs of the Army Regulations,¹² as of—Par. 87, in failing to report address when on leave of absence;¹³ Par. 649, in addressing application direct to the Secretary of War instead of through proper military channels;¹⁴ Pars. 865 and 867, in arresting and confining in the guard-house a medical officer for a trivial offence;¹⁵ Par. 349, in showing disrespect to a sentinel by setting at naught his authority and attempting to disarm him;¹⁶

1. G. O. 190, Fifth Mil. Dist., 1869.

2. G. O. 77, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1864.

3. G. O. 14 of 1855; Do. 126, Sixteenth Army Corps, 1863. And see Do. 48, Dept. of the East, 1863; also case in G. C. M. O. 23 of 1873, of a *cadet* convicted of refusing to answer a proper question as a witness.

4. G. O. 25 of 1859; G. C. M. O. 5, Dept. of the Platte, 1874.

5. G. O. 25, Mountain Dept., 1862. More properly charged under Art. 61.

6. G. C. M. O. 13, Dept. of Texas, 1876.

7. DIGEST, 70. And see Samuel, 634; Simmons § 434.

8. G. C. M. O. 10 of 1878.

9. G. C. M. O. 34 of 1879.

10. G. C. M. O. 30 of 1877; Do. 36, 62, of 1879; Do. 33 of 1880.

11. See G. C. M. O. 36 of 1877; Do. 73, 74, Dept. of the Mo., 1869.

12. That violations of Regulations are in general properly to be charged under Art. 62—see DIGEST, 45, 118, 138. [The Pars. referred to in the text are designated by their *present* numbers.]

13. G. O. 43 of 1832.

14. G. C. M. O. 84 of 1882. And see similar cases in Do. 28 of 1880; Do. 116, Dept. of the East, 1884.

15. G. O. 251 of 1863; Do. 59, Dept. of the South, 1862.

16. G. O. 9, Fifth Mil. Dist., 1870. And see case in C the Potomac, 1861; also Hough, 635.

Par. 1635, in taking, as quartermaster, receipts from employees for money not actually paid them ;¹ Par. 1628, in gambling as a disbursing officer ;² Par. 1629, in being, as a quartermaster, interested with civilians in a sale to the United States of quartermaster stores ;³ also, in receiving presents for the transaction of public business ;⁴ Par. 1632, in contracting for and purchasing, as quartermaster, public stores from persons in the military service ;⁵ Par. 2380, in transferring a pay account before the pay was due ;⁶ and of the recruiting regulations, in making improper enlistments.⁷

In cases of soldiers. Special neglects or violations of duty on guard, as—Omission to challenge, in time of war ;⁸ Allowing prisoners to escape ;⁹ Bringing whiskey into guard-house ;¹⁰ Improperly relieving sentinels by non-commissioned officer of the guard ;¹¹ Gambling by sergeant of the guard with members of the guard ;¹² Mutilating the guard book.¹³

Escape while in confinement under arrest, or under sentence.¹⁴

1. G. C. M. O. 52 of 1867. Offences of this nature are now expressly made punishable in Art. 60.

2. G. C. M. O. 553 of 1865 ; Do. 66 of 1875. And see G. O. 5 of 1829 ; Do. 104 of 1833 ; also case cited in note 10, page 1045, *ante*.

3. G. C. M. O. 6 of 1867.

4. G. O. 22, Northern Dept., 1865.

5. G. C. M. O. 89 of 1866.

6. G. C. M. O. 64 of 1867. And see G. O. 110, Fifth Mil. Dist., 1869 ; G. C. M. O. 42, Dept. of Texas, 1884.

7. G. O. 18, Dept. of the East, 1864.

A common form of Charge against *Cadets* is—Violation of a certain paragraph of the Regulations for the Military Academy. This is really a charge under Art. 62 ; the term, "to the prejudice of good order and military discipline," being understood if not expressed.

8. G. O. 1, Dept. of N. Mex., 1864 ; Do. 13, Dept. of the Pacific, 1863.

9. G. C. M. O. 56 of 1877 ; Do. 53 of 1879 ; Do. 42 of 1882 ; Do. 4 of 1883 ; Do. 33, Dept. of the Mo., 1883 ; Do. 7, 16, 28, 31, Id., 1884 ; Do. 63, 64, Dept. of Cal., 1884.

10. G. O. 90, Fifth Mil. Dist., 1869 ; G. C. M. O. 7, Dept. of the Platte, 1875.

11. G. O. 11, Dept. of Alaska, 1868.

12. G. C. M. O. 8, Dept. of Texas, 1874.

13. G. C. M. O. 123, Dept. of the Mo., 1872.

14. G. C. M. O. 84, Dept. of the Mo., 1873 ; Do. 29, Dept. of the Platte, 1875.

Attempt to desert.¹

Failing to appear on duty with a proper uniform, or appearing with dirty or torn clothing, &c.;² Being offensively unclean in person.³

Failing to appear, or appearing drunk, before a court-martial, as an accused or as a witness;⁴ Giving false testimony before a court-martial;⁵ Attempting to suborn a witness;⁶ Attempting to intimidate one who was to be a material witness by a threatening letter.⁷

Malingering or self-maiming.⁸ Maiming of another soldier.⁹
Cruel or injurious treatment of a public animal.¹⁰

1. G. C. M. O. 20, Dept. of the Platte, 1875. All *attempts* to commit military offences, or attempts to commit civil crimes cognizable at military law, are properly charged under this Article.

2. G. O. 84, First Mil. Dist., 1869.

3. G. C. M. O. 43, Dept. of the Platte, 1873.

4. G. O. 49, Dept. of the Lakes, 1868; Do. 58, Dept. of the Cumberland, 1868; Do. 149, Fifth Mil. Dist., 1869; G. C. M. O. 7, Dept. of the Platte, 1874.

5. G. C. M. O. 16, 66, of 1879; G. O. 22, Second Mil. Dist., 1867; Do. 33, Third Id., 1867; Do. 155, Fifth Id., 1869; Do. 6, Dept. of the East, 1869; Do. 41, Dept. of the South, 1870; Do. 7, Dept. of the Gulf, 1874; Do. 48, Dept. of the Platte, 1867; Do. 3, Id., 1869; Do. 1, Id., 1871; G. C. M. O. 73, Id., 1873; Do. 146, Dept. of the Mo., 1868; Do. 53, Dept. of Texas, 1872; Do. 6, Id., 1874; Do. 8, 17, Id., 1875; Do. 48, Dept. of Cal., 1874. A leading case of alleged "False swearing, to the prejudice of good order and military discipline," is that of Cadet Whittaker, in G. C. M. O. 18 of 1882.

6. G. O. 48, Dept. of the Platte, 1867; G. C. M. O. 48, Dept. of Cal., 1874.

7. G. C. M. O. 13, Dept. of Texas, 1876.

8. G. C. M. O. 29, Dept. of the Mo., 1869; Do. 86, Id., 1882; Do. 171, Dept. of the East, 1871; Do. 10, Dept. of the Gulf, 1872; Do. 18, Dept. of Texas, 1873; Do. 20, 23, 52, Id., 1874; Do. 1, 3, Id., 1875; Do. 105, Dept. of the East, 1884; Hough, 637.

9. G. O. 38, Dept. of Dak., 1874; G. C. M. O. 86, Dept. of Texas, 1870; Do. 36, Dept. of the Platte, 1871; Do. 103, Dept. of the Mo., 1881. These were all cases of biting off a portion of the *ear*, and therefore not mayhem at common law. See "Fifty-Eighth Article—Mayhem," in Chapter XXV.

10. G. C. M. O. 513 of 1865; Do. 67 of 1879; Do. 48 of 1882; Do. 57, Dept. of the Mo., 1873; Do. 100, Id., 1882; Do. 5, Dept. of Texas, 1873; Do. 7, Id., 1874; Do. 29, Dept. of Cal., 1873; Do. 12, Id., 1875; Do. 100, Id., 1884; Field G. O. 1, Id., 1867; G. O. 15, Dept. of Dakota, 1868.

Careless or wanton discharge of fire-arm, so as to endanger man or animal.¹

Assuming by a soldier to be a corporal in the recruiting service, and acting as such in enlisting recruits, &c.²

Falsely personating and acting as an officer.³

Writing, and publishing in a newspaper, statements grossly defaming and misrepresenting the military service.⁴

Abusing and maltreating his wife in the presence of other soldiers at a military post.⁵

Failing properly to deliver the mail,⁶ or opening the mail,⁷ by a soldier detailed as mail carrier.

Straggling on the march.⁸

Failing, by a hospital steward, to put up prescriptions correctly.⁹

Combining and holding meetings in a spirit of insubordination against superior authority.¹⁰

Writing an improper complaining letter to the colonel of the regiment without first presenting his grievance to his company commander.¹¹

Engaging by a non-commissioned officer in a public sparring exhibition at a liquor saloon.¹²

Joining and parading with an association of Fenians, reported to be in armed hostility to a nation at peace with the United States.¹³

All such acts, (not classed as "crimes," nor made punishable in previous Articles,) as, in a case of an officer, would be within the description of Art. 61; as, for example,—Falsifying morning

1. G. C. M. O. 147, Dept. of the Mo., 1868; Do. 26, Id., 1872; Do. 76, Id., 1873; Do. 24, Dept. of Texas, 1876; Hough, 638.

2. DIGEST, 45.

3. G. C. M. O. 479 of 1865.

4. G. C. M. O. 52, Dept. of Columbia, 1881.

5. G. C. M. O. 10, Dept. of the Platte, 1881.

6. G. O. 17, Dept. of Dakota, 1874.

7. G. C. M. O. 42 of 1878; G. O. 26, Dept. of N. Mexico, 1864.

8. G. C. M. O. 357 of 1864; G. O. 27, Dept. of Dakota, 1868.

9. G. C. M. O. 50, Dept. of Texas, 1873. And see G. O. 54, Dept. of Washington, 1863.

10. See G. C. M. O. 62, Dept. of Texas, 1873.

11. G. C. M. O. 40, Dept. of Cal., 1874.

12. G. C. M. O. 88, Dept. of Cal., 1884.

13. G. O. 54, Dept. of the East, 1867.

port book, company clothing book, muster-rolls, &c., by a company clerk, hospital steward, &c.;¹ Forging the name of an officer to a pass or furlough,² order on the trader,³ ration return,⁴ &c.; Embezzlement of private property,⁵ or other misappropriation or fraud not included in Art. 60; Making false statements to an officer;⁶ Preferring charges against an officer or soldier;⁷ Dishonorable non-payment of a debt;⁸ Borrowing property of another soldier and not returning same;⁹ Obtaining money from another soldier's wife on false pretences;¹⁰ Improper conduct to a laundress,¹¹ or to a milk-woman;¹² Violating a pledge given to a commanding officer, (in consideration of a release from arrest or the withdrawal of charges,) not to drink intoxicating liquor during the remainder of a term of enlistment or other period.¹³

Procedure—Charge. This particular is sufficiently comprehended under the general subject of the Charge as considered in Chapter X. It may be repeated that, while the usual and ap-

1. G. C. M. O. 50, Dept. of the Platte, 1874; Do. 31, Id., 1875; Do. Dept. of Texas, 1876.

2. G. C. M. O. 224 of 1865.

3. G. C. M. O. 36, Dept. of the Mo., 1870; Do. 7, Dept. of the Platte, 1873; Do. 45, Dept. of Texas, 1875.

4. G. C. M. O. 36 of 1866.

5. G. C. M. O. 9, Dept. of the Platte, 1874; Do. 28, Dept. of Arizona, 1870.

6. G. C. M. O. 79, Dept. of Texas, 1873; Do. 16, 42, Id., 1874; Do. Dept. of the Platte, 1872; Do. 35, Id., 1875; Do. 25, Dept. of the Gulf, 1875.

7. False statements made *upon enlisting*, i. e. before the contract of enlistment is completed and the civilian has actually become a soldier, are chargeable as military offences under this Article, or otherwise, in law. See DIGEST, 46; G. C. M. O. 9, Dept. of Texas, 1874.

8. G. O. 16, Mountain Dept., 1862.

9. G. O. 36, Dept. of the Platte, 1868; Do. 37, Id., 1871. The act, however, should be such as to affect military discipline. The mere non-payment of a debt to a citizen is not sufficient. G. C. M. O. 36 of 1883.

10. G. C. M. O. 50, Dept. of the Platte, 1872.

11. G. C. M. O. 60, Dept. of the Mo., 1870.

12. G. C. M. O. 7, Dept. of the Platte, 1876.

13. G. C. M. O. 106 of 1866.

14. G. O. 63, Dept. of Dakota, 1872; Do. 30, Dept. of the Gulf, 1875; G. C. M. O. 32, Id., 1876; Do. 65, Dept. of the Mo., 1869; Do. 8, Dept. of the Platte, 1876; Do. 30, Id., 1875; Do. 48, Id., 1873; Do. 6, 7, Id., 1872; G. O. 36, Id., 1871.

proved form of the charge is "Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline," this form is not an essential; and that, however the charge may be worded, if charge and specification taken together make out a substantial averment of an act which, while not representing an offence punishable under a specific Article, at the same time clearly directly impairs or injuriously affects good order and military discipline, the whole will constitute a sufficient pleading of a crime, neglect or disorder under Art. 62.¹

Finding. It has already been sufficiently indicated in the Chapter on the Finding, that, while the established usage of the service has fully sanctioned the finding of guilty of "conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline" under a charge of a violation of any Article making punishable a specific offence, the reverse, *viz.* the finding of a specific offence under a general charge framed upon Art. 62, would obviously be wholly unauthorized and invalid.

Punishment. The discretionary power of punishment conferred upon the court by this Article is peculiarly appropriate in view of the manifold forms and shades of offences constantly brought to trial under it.²

In imposing a term of imprisonment or fine, upon the conviction of a "crime," the court, as an aid to the exercise of a due discretion, may well take into consideration the measure of the penalty of this nature imposable for a like offence under the statutes of the United States or the local law. As recognized, however, by the Supreme Court in *Ex parte Mason*,³ a court-martial may in a proper case considerably exceed this measure, while adding, if deemed expedient, other penalties—such as discharge, dismissal and forfeiture of pay—of a military character.

It may be remarked in conclusion that where a court-martial, under a charge of a violation of a specific Article prescribing a mandatory penalty, has found the accused guilty of "conduct

1. DIGEST, 46, 47; G. O. 23, Dept. of the Lakes, 1869.

2. The discretion "must be a reasonable one, consistent with usage and custom." Samuel, 689. "The punishment is indeterminate, because, in most cases, the guilt may be much aggravated or diminished by attendant circumstances." O'Brien, 165.

3. 105 U. S., 700. And compare *King v. Suddis*, 1 East, 306.

to the prejudice of good order and military discipline" only, it will, in general, in its sentence, naturally and properly affix a less severe punishment than that designated in the specific Article.

With the exception of Art. 99, ARTICLES 63 TO 121 inclusive have all been fully considered under appropriate heads in preceding Chapters.

XXVIII. THE NINETY-NINTH ARTICLE AND SECTIONS 1228, 1229, 1230, 1245, AND 1252, REV. STS.

[DISMISSAL AND RESTORATION OF OFFICERS.]

"ART. 99. *No officer shall be discharged or dismissed from the service, except by order of the President, or by sentence of a general court-martial; and in time of peace no officer shall be dismissed, except in pursuance of the sentence of a court-martial, or in mitigation thereof.*

"SEC. 1228. *No officer of the Army who has been or may be dismissed from the service by the sentence of a general court-martial, formally approved by the proper reviewing authority, shall ever be restored to the military service, except by a reappointment confirmed by the Senate.*

"SEC. 1229. *The President is authorized to drop from the rolls of the Army for desertion any officer who is absent from duty three months without leave; and no officer so dropped shall be eligible for reappointment. And no officer in the military or naval service shall in time of peace be dismissed from service, except upon and in pursuance of the sentence of a court-martial to that effect, or in commutation thereof.*

"SEC. 1230. *When any officer, dismissed by order of the President, makes, in writing, an application for trial, setting forth, under oath, that he has been wrongfully dismissed, the President shall, as soon as the necessities of the service may permit, convene a court-martial, to try such officer on the charges on which he shall have been dismissed. And if a court-martial is not so convened within six months from the presentation of such application for trial, or if such court, being convened, does not award dismissal or death as the punishment of such officer, the order of dismissal by the President shall be void.*

"SEC. 1245. *When any officer has become incapable of performing the duties of his office, he shall be either retired from active service, or wholly retired from the service, by the President, as hereinafter provided.*

"SEC. 1252. *When the board finds that an officer is incapacitated for active service, and that his incapacity is not the result of any incident of service, and its decision is approved by the President, the officer shall be retired from active service, or wholly retired from the service, as the President may determine. The names of officers wholly retired from the service shall be omitted from the Army Register.*"

NINETY-NINTH ARTICLE.

History. This Article is made up of two separate enactments. Its first clause consists of a provision taken from Article 11 of 1806, and which had previously appeared in the Articles of 1776 and 1786; the only material change made in the phraseology by the later statute being that, in view of the adoption meanwhile of the Constitution, the term "by order of the President" was substituted for the previous form, "by order of Congress."

The second clause of the Article is the provision, (so far as it relates to the Army,) of the Act of July 13, 1866, c. 176, § 5, which was expressed as follows:—"No officer in the military or naval service shall, in time of peace, be dismissed from service except upon and in pursuance of the sentence of a court-martial to that effect, or in commutation thereof." This provision is repeated also in Sec. 1229, Rev. Sts., above cited, and more correctly; the word "commutation"—which, and not "mitigation," is in fact the correct legal term to employ in such connection—being there properly retained.

The Two Modes of Dismissal Distinguished. The two modes of discharge or dismissal of officers specified in the Article are quite distinct in their nature. A dismissal imposed by sentence of court-martial, (or in commutation thereof,) is a *punishment*—a penalty incurred by law upon a conviction of a criminal

1. It was held by the Supreme Court in *McElrath v. U. S.*, 102 U. S. 426, that as the recent war was not fully terminated nor peace established prior to Aug. 20, 1866, this statute did not affect the legality of a summary dismissal ordered by the President between the date of the Act and Aug. 20 following.

offence. A dismissal or discharge ordered by the President in the first instance, on the contrary, is not a punishment but a *removal from office*. "A penalty," says Attorney General Cushing,¹ "is the result of a legal process. Dismissal from office belongs to a different class of administrative or political considerations, resting in the mere executive discretion of the President."

Any dismissal, indeed, where resorted to because of offences or misconduct of the officer, has the moral effect of punishment, in that it not only deprives the party of that which is valuable to him but affixes a reproach upon his reputation. The latter, however, is by no means an essential incident of an executive dismissal,² since—as was frequently done toward the end of the late war—an officer may be dismissed because his services are no longer required, by reason of a cessation of hostilities or other cause inducing a reduction of the military force. The separation from the service in the latter class of cases is indeed ordinarily designated "discharge" or "muster out," while the term dismissal is rather reserved for those instances which involve disgrace. But whatever be the name applied to it, or the grounds of or circumstances attending it, the exercise of the executive will is, in all the cases, the same act *in law*, the authority exerted being simply that of a divestiture of office.

That the summary dismissal is wholly distinct from and independent of the other species, *viz.* dismissal as a punishment by sentence, is illustrated by the fact that the President, like the British sovereign, has repeatedly exercised the authority to dismiss by order, not only after a court-martial, having passed upon the acts of the party and tried him for his offences, has imposed upon him a minor punishment, but after such a court has *acquitted* him altogether.³

1. VII Opins. At. Gen., 251. See DIGEST, 239.

2. See Samuel, 627-8; Hough, (P.) 425, 428.

3. "The royal prerogative of summary dismissal is in nowise controlled or affected by the circumstance of an officer having been previously acquitted by a court-martial or having received only a lenient sentence for the conduct in question." Prendergast, 238. And see *Id.*, 209, 236. Among the most marked instances in the British service were those of Admiral Herbert and Rear Admiral Munden, (1 McArthur, 109, 111; 2 Brod. & Bing. 151,) and General Fowke, (IV Campbell's Admirals, 84.) In the first two cases the officers were dismissed after having been acquitted by military tribunals; in the latter case the action

And so, after a court of inquiry,¹ or an examining board,² has rendered a favorable report upon his case. And that such exercise of power is entirely legal has been repeatedly affirmed by the authorities.³

Dismissal by Sentence. This subject has already been fully considered in Chapter XX, treating of SENTENCE AND PUNISHMENT.

Dismissal by Order—*As heretofore resorted to.* The summary dismissal or discharge of officers of the army and navy has been, from the earliest period, a prerogative of the British sovereign. "Commissions in the army," says Prendergast, "being held at the sole will and pleasure of the Crown, a royal mandate or order is at any time sufficient for the summary discharge of an officer from the service, without the formality of a court-martial or a court of inquiry, or the assignment of any reason whatsoever."⁴ In this country, the power, having been employed by Congress antecedently to the adoption of the Constitution,⁵

was taken after a sentence of suspension for one year. And see instances reported in James, pp. 72, 231, 290, 334, 345, 492, 498.

In our army, cases of summary dismissal after *acquittals* are published in G. O. 327, 385, of 1863; G. C. M. O. 33, 38, 109, 184, 278, of 1864; Do. 129 of 1865;—after sentences imposing minor punishments, in G. O. 330, 377, of 1863; G. C. M. O. 42, 144, 156, 159, 280, 293, of 1864; Do. 70, 299, of 1865.

1. IV Opins. At. Gen., 1.

2. XIII Opins. At. Gen., 3.

3. See IV Opins. At. Gen., 1, 611; XII Id., 421; 1 McArthur, 109; Prendergast, 236-239; Clode, 1 M. F., 168.

4. Page 235. The same author adds, (p. 239,)—"A military officer cannot by law hold his commission or any military employment, free from this liability to summary dismissal by the Crown." In Lieut. Poe's case it was held by the Court of King's Bench, "that the King had the exclusive uncontrolled prerogative of dismissing any officer or soldier whom he pleased, with or without a court-martial." Simmons § 750, note.

5. See instances of the exercise of the power by Congress, in 1 Jour. Cong., 357; 2 Id., 204, (a dismissal of twelve lieutenants of the navy;) 3 Id., 421. In the last case, that of Maj. Gen. Charles Lee, the Resolution follows the form of words employed in the British service, the officer being informed that "Congress has no further occasion for his services in the Army of the United States." See, further, 2 Jour. Cong., 45, where Congress directs General Washington to dismiss such of "the French gentlemen in the army" as he may find on investigation to be

was subsequently exercised by its successor in the executive department of the government, the President, from the period of the debate of 1789 on the subject, in the House of Representatives, down to the passage of the Act of 1866, already cited as the original of the second clause of Art. 99.¹

Prior to the late war, indeed, summary dismissals or discharges of officers of the army by the order of the President, though from time to time resorted to, were not frequent.² But during the war—especially between July 1861 and October 1865—these dismissals and discharges were numerous; about one hundred and fifty, of officers of all grades,³ and for varied causes,⁴ being published in the General Orders,⁵ and upwards of fifteen hundred in the

“unworthy of commissions or unable to render service in the military line.”

1. Atty. Gen. Clifford, writing in 1847, observes, (IV Opins., 612,) of the power under consideration, that it “has the sanction of immemorial usage in England and of more than half a century in the United States.”

The power of course pertains to the President alone; a military commander cannot exercise it. An order of summary dismissal issued in the name or by the direction of the Secretary of War is presumed to be the order of the President. See XII Opins. At. Gen., 421; McElrath v. U. S., 12 Ct. Cl. 202; DIGEST, 240, 446.

2. See cases in G. O. 35 of 1821; Do. 23 of 1831; Do. 97 of 1833; Do. 37 of 1836; Do. 18 of 1838; Do. 51 of 1840; Do. 34 of 1841; Do. 14 of 1845; Do. 4, 18, of 1853; Do. 6 of 1856. And see Gen. Gratiot's case, (of Dec. 4, 1838,) in V Opins. At. Gen., 234.

3. Two being cases of general officers—Twiggs and Spears. See G. O. 5 of 1861; G. C. M. O. 267 of 1864.

4. Of these grounds, so far as recited—in some cases the causes are not specified—the following, (taken both from General and Special Orders,) are among the principal:—Disloyalty, tender of resignation, in the face of the enemy, tender of resignation under grave charges or on improper grounds, desertion, absence without leave, disobedience of orders, neglect of duty, cowardice, misbehaviour before the enemy, drunkenness, sending a challenge, embezzlement, twice drawing pay, fraudulent transactions, lying, dishonorable or unbecoming conduct, unauthorized publication of an official report, procuring or suffering one's self to be taken prisoner, pretending to be wounded, feigning sickness, self-caused disability, irregular and improper conduct as member of a court-martial, incompetency, inefficiency, being “troublesome,” being “an alarmist,” being in Washington without proper authority, violation of the sovereignty of a friendly State by arresting a deserter in Canada and bringing him away within the United States.

5. See G. O. 5, 45, 47, 63, 66, 87, 93, 102, 103, 110, of 1861; Do. 15, 13, 35, 42, 54, 66, 96, 106, 115, 117, 120, 125, 131, 136, 137, 144, 156, 161, 183, 195, 196, 197, 199, 209, 211, 215, 217, of 1862; Do. 4, 11, 12, 15, 19, 23, 27, 31, 32, 39, 44, 59, 60, 68, 75, 89, 93, 94, 115, 119, 120, 136, 180,

Special Orders, of the War Department.¹ In the great majority of cases, no trial or investigation by a military court had preceded the action taken. In a considerable number, however, there had been a previous trial, and either a dismissal had been imposed by the sentence, which, because of the disapproval of the convening authority, or of some legal defect in the proceedings, had been rendered inoperative;² or—as already noticed—an acquittal or a minor penalty had been adjudged, when, in the opinion of the Executive, an absolute separation from the service should have been the result.

Operation of an Order of Dismissal—When it takes effect. An order of dismissal can legally take effect only *upon notice*; in other words, till the party is personally and officially notified that he has been dismissed, he is not dismissed in fact or in law. Where the summary dismissal is announced in a General Order, which, when received at his post or station, is publicly promulgated to the command, the presumption will in general be that the officer became informed of the dismissal on the day of such promulgation—a presumption subject to be rebutted by proof that he was at the time absent by authority and thus could not have been notified.³ In general, however, an officer summarily dismissed is regularly notified of his dismissal by having an official copy of the order of dismissal delivered or transmitted to him personally; the dismissal taking effect on the day of the delivery or receipt. Where indeed such a delivery or re-

183, 187, 189, 201, 209, 210, 229, 234, 261, 263, 264, 270, 299, 327, 330, 356, 377, of 1863; Do. 117, 304, of 1864; G. C. M. O. 10, 11, 28, 33, 38, 42, 43, 53, 109, 123, 144, 156, 159, 184, 267, 278, 280, 293, of 1864; Do. 61, 70, 71, 89, 123, 129, 261, 299, 349, 566, of 1865. In a few of the cases the dismissal was originally ordered by a military commander, but subsequently ratified and adopted by the President; the original action having of course no legal effect, but amounting to a recommendation merely.

1. As these orders are very numerous, and not readily accessible to students, it is not worth while to cite them. Among the discharges summarily ordered therein a considerable proportion are of volunteer officers adversely reported upon by examining boards, officers failing to appear when summoned before such boards or before investigating commissions, supernumerary officers, &c.

2. See G. O. 32, 68, 75, 93, 94, 115, 180, 183, 187, 189, 201, 209, 210, 229, 234, 261, 264, 270, 299, of 1863; G. C. M. O. 10, 11, 28, 38, 43, 53, 267, of 1864; Do. 71, 89, 261, of 1865.

3. DIGEST, 240, 350, 351. And see, similarly, as to the taking effect of a *sentence* of dismissal, Chapter XX—"Dismissal."

ceipt is rendered impracticable by some exigency of war or the service, a considerable period may elapse before the officer can be notified and the dismissal become operative. Thus if, at the date of the dismissal, or before information of the same has reached him, he has been taken prisoner, and is in the hands of the enemy, the dismissal cannot, as a general rule, take effect until, having reported, upon exchange, to his proper commander, or having otherwise been brought within the scope of the authority of the government, he becomes officially advised of the action taken : till then he is not divested of his office or its emoluments.¹

Extent of its effect. An executive order of dismissal, being simply a divestiture of office, cannot *per se* work a disability, or deprive the officer of any right other than his right to the office as such. Thus such a dismissal, (except where Congress otherwise specifically enacts,²) involves no legal disability to re-enter the military service either by commission or by enlistment, or to be employed in any branch of the public service. Nor can it affect vested rights to pay, &c. Thus it has been held by the Judge Advocate General,³ (applying to the case an opinion of Atty. Gen. Mason,⁴) that an order by which an officer was dismissed *with forfeiture of pay due*, was, as to such forfeiture, illegal and unauthorized; the officer having a vested right in all the emoluments accruing to the office, so long as he holds it and up to the day on which he ceases to hold it, which cannot be divested except by the sentence of a court-martial imposing such a forfeiture as a *punishment*. And as an attempt to do indirectly what may not be done directly, can have no legal sanction, it was further held by the same authority that a dating back of an order of dismissal to a day prior to that on which it was really issued, or a declaration in an order that the same was to take effect as of a prior day, could not operate to affect the right of the officer to pay for the period between such day and that on which the order was in fact made or he was duly notified of it.

Prohibition of Executive Dismissals in time of Peace.
—Its Constitutionality. The provision of the Act of July 13,

1. DIGEST, 351, 394.

2. As it has in Sec. 1229, Rev. Sts., hereafter considered.

3. DIGEST, 240, 351-2.

4. IV Opins., 447.

1866, embraced in Sec. 1229, Rev. Sts., and in the second clause of Art. 99, is the first instance, since the organization of the government under the Constitution, in which Congress has expressly prohibited the exercise by the President of the power of removal from office. Upon a provision divesting the Executive of a function so long and largely exercised, the question naturally arises whether the same is constitutional. In considering this question, the nature and quality of the power itself, as asserted and maintained, will be clearly illustrated.

The debate of 1789. The subject is relieved of difficulty by the almost uniform concurrence of the authorities. All point to the debate in the House of Representatives of the First Congress, of May and June, 1789, as having practically settled the question both of the existence and the extent of the power.¹ This was a debate upon certain proposed Acts, 'to establish the State, War and Treasury Departments,' in each of which was introduced a provision to the effect that whenever the Head of the Department should be "*removed from office by the President*," the "Chief Clerk" in the two former cases, and the "Assistant" in the latter case, should have the charge and custody of the records, &c.

The adoption of this provision was strenuously contested; a main objection being that, inasmuch as the heads of departments were, according to the Constitution, to be *appointed* by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, the concurrence of that body—the Constitution being silent on the point—should properly also be deemed essential to their *removal*; and that therefore the power of removal could not legally be vested in the President alone. But after a protracted debate in which Mr. Madison was conspicuous in support of the Acts, as framed and passed, it was finally determined "in favor of declaring the power of removal to be in the President," and the several measures, having received the approval of President Washington, were duly enacted, *viz.* on July 27, August 7, and September 2, 1789, respectively.²

The argument of the affirmative of the debate was that, while the Constitution contained no express grant of the function of removal from office, or specific provision in regard to the matter,

1. See 4 Elliot's Debates, 350-404; 1 Gales' Annals, 372-383, 455-591; Benton's Debates, 86-90, 102-108; 2 Marshall's Washington, 162.

2. 1 Stats. at Large, 28, 49, 65.

it vested in the President the whole executive power of the Government, and that the authority to remove was intrinsically and necessarily a part of the executive power, without which it could not be fully or efficiently exercised. "I conceive," said Mr. Madison, "that if any power whatsoever is in its nature executive, it is the power of appointing, overseeing, and controlling," (as by removal from office if deemed expedient,) "those who execute the laws." Fisher Ames, in combating the notion that it would be dangerous to determine that the power was vested in the President, observed:—"It will be found that the nature of the business" (of removal) "requires it to be conducted by the head of the Executive; and I believe it will be found even then that more injury will arise from not removing improper officers than from displacing good ones." Mr. Boudinot expressed himself as "certain from the nature of things, that it was not the intention of the Constitution to prevent the President from removing an officer who was found to be wholly unfit or incapable of doing his duty." Mr. Madison also asserted the view that—"inasmuch as the power of removal is of an executive nature, and not affected by any Constitutional exception, it is beyond the reach of the legislative body."⁴

Subsequent rulings. In the course of his remarks Mr. Madison further declared—"The decision that is at this time made will become the permanent exposition of the Constitution."⁵ In point of fact the result of this debate has ever since been treated by writers on the subject as a contemporaneous interpretation of the Constitution, not merely as to civil officers but equally as to military and naval officers, the appointment of both classes being authorized by the same constitutional provision. This exposition has been since repeatedly illustrated by the authorities. Thus in the early case in *Pennsylvania of Commonwealth v. Bussier*,⁶ Tilghman C. J. refers to the question under considera-

1. 1 Gales' Annals, 463. In *U. S. v. Guthrie*, 17 Howard, 307, McLean J. observed:—"In this discussion in Congress, Mr. Madison * * considered the removal from office was an executive power, and that Congress could not restrict its exercise."

2. 1 Gales' Annals, 476.

3. *Idem*, 376.

4. *Idem*, 464.

5. *Idem*, 495.

6. 5 Sergt. & Rawle, 461, (1820.)

tion in the following terms:—This question “engaged the attention of the Congress of the United States soon after the formation of the Federal Constitution, by which the President nominates and appoints by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. There was some plausibility in the argument that the tenure of officers should be at the pleasure of the President and Senate, because the President could not appoint without the consent of the Senate and the Constitution is silent as to the power of removal. Yet it was determined with general approbation that the pleasure of the President was the tenure of office. A main reason for this opinion was that the President, being vested with the supreme executive power, was bound to carry the laws into operation, which can only be done through the intervention of officers. If these officers are not removable at his pleasure, he is relieved from that responsibility to which it is for the public good to hold him. An officer is not appointed for his own sake but for that of the public. If he misbehaves, the sooner he is removed the better, because the country suffers every moment that he continues in office.”

In 1839, in the case of *Ex parte Hennen*,¹ the Supreme Court of the United States, in remarking that—“the Constitution is silent with respect to the power of removal from office, where the tenure is not fixed,” adds—generally—that, “in the absence of all constitutional provision or statutory regulation, it would seem to be a sound and necessary rule, to consider *the power of removal as incident to the power of appointment.*” The court then goes on to observe that “it was very early adopted as the practical construction of the Constitution,” and has since “become the settled and well understood construction” of that instrument, “that the power of removal was vested in the President *alone.*”

In 1842, in an opinion² relating to a *naval* officer who had been “stricken from the rolls” by the President, it was declared by Atty. Gen. Legaré that—“it is now too late to dispute the settled construction of 1789. It,” (the authority to remove,) “is, according to that construction, from the very nature of executive power, absolute in the President, subject only to his responsibility to the country, (his constituent,) for a breach of such a vast and solemn trust.” And he continues,—“it is obvious that if necessity is

1. 13 Peters, 258, 259. And see *Blake v. U. S.*, 103 U. S., 231.

2. IV Opins., 1.

a sufficient ground for such a concession in regard to officers in the civil service, the argument applies *a multo fortiori* to the military and naval departments." Referring to the action taken in the case before him, he concludes—"I have no doubt, therefore, that the President had the constitutional power to do what he did."

In 1847, in the case of Surgeon Du Barry of the *army*,¹ Atty. Gen. Clifford, in commenting upon the debate of 1789, says:—"The power was finally affirmed to be in the President alone by a majority of both houses of Congress, after great deliberation and perhaps one of the ablest discussions in the history of the country. That decision was acquiesced in at the time, and has since received the sanction of every department of the government." He then goes on to show that there is no essential difference between the cases of military and those of civil officers, "much the largest class of whom," he observes, "are appointed under that clause of the Constitution from which the power of the President is derived to appoint the officers of the army and navy." * * * No such distinction," he continues, "was taken in the debate on either side. On the contrary, it was maintained that the power of removal extended to every officer in the government except the judiciary. The plain inference to be drawn from the whole discussion leads irresistibly to the conclusion that the construction adopted was intended to reach every officer appointed by the President, except the judges of the federal courts."³ He further instances the fact that—"the form of a military commission, in general use, expressly describes the tenure of office and very clearly recognizes the doctrine of 1789: '*This commission to continue in force during the pleasure of the President of the United States for the time being.*'"

1. IV Opins., 609-613.

2. And see VIII Opins., 231.

3. It is noticed in this opinion, (p. 613,) that the only writer who holds that the power of executive dismissal is limited to cases of civil officers is De Hart. [See his "Military Law," p. 228-243.] "It is sufficient," says Mr. Clifford, "to remark that the weight of authority on this point is altogether against the views of this author. The construction of 1789 is too forcibly fixed in principle and has been too long established in practice to be shaken by any elementary writer however respectable, and the attempt to limit and qualify its application to the officers in the civil service has been wholly unsuccessful." So, Mr. Cushing, (VIII Opins., 230,) refers to De Hart as not entitled to consideration upon the present subject.

In a later opinion¹ Atty. Gen. Cushing expresses himself as follows:—"I am not aware of any ground of distinction in this respect, (the liability to be deprived of their offices at the will of the President,) so far as regards the strict question of law, between officers of the army and any other officers of the government. As a general rule, with the exception of judicial officers only, they all hold their commissions by the same tenure in this respect. Reasons of a special nature may be deemed to exist why the rule should not be applied to military in the same way it is to civil officers; but the legal applicability to both classes of officers is, it is conceived, *the settled construction of the Constitution*. It is no answer to this doctrine to say that officers of the army are subject to be deprived of their commissions by the decision of a court-martial. So are civil officers by impeachment. The difference between the two cases is in the form and mode of trial, not in the principle, which leaves unimpaired, in both cases alike, the whole constitutional power of the President." And, with reference to the case submitted to him, he adds:—"I am therefore of opinion that the President had the constitutional power to remove Mr. Lansing," (a military storekeeper,) "from office."

The same Atty. Gen., in a subsequent opinion,² incidentally observes, speaking of the President—"The power of removal, and the absolute right to exercise it according to his conscience, like the power of appointment, he holds by the Constitution."

In a third opinion,³ Mr. Cushing reviews at length the subject under consideration, as illustrated by the authorities; shows that, in regard to civil officers, the construction of the Constitution is "*fixed, as all admit, past change*;"⁴ and, holding that no differ-

1. VI Opins., 5-6.

2. VII Opins., 251.

3. VIII Opins., 230-232.

4. Mr. Cushing here adds:—"I say *past change*, for the result of the earnest discussion of the question in the Twenty-third Congress, when the subject was revived for the very purpose, would appear to be decisive on that point." It was in this Congress that Mr. Clay offered, to a pending bill for restricting the executive patronage, an amendment declaring that, in cases of officers appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, the power of removal should be exercised only in concurrence with the Senate. This proposition was supported in an elaborate speech, but the amendment was subsequently withdrawn and was not renewed. See Gales and Seaton's Cong. Deb.,

ence exists in the application of the power to military or naval officers, concludes—generally—that “the power to remove is inherent in the executive power to nominate, as conferred on the President by the Constitution.”

More recently—since the late war—Atty. Gen. Browning, in an opinion¹ in the case of an army officer who had been summarily dismissed by the President, notwithstanding an acquittal by court-martial, observes:—“The authority of the President to dismiss an officer from the military or naval service has been fully and elaborately considered by several Attorneys General. They have, in every instance where the question arose, asserted that the authority was derived from the Constitution, and that its exercise was sanctioned by the settled construction of that instrument and the uniform practice of the executive branch of the government.” He then reviews some of the rulings of his predecessors, and, referring to the Act of July 17, 1862, by which the President is “authorized and requested to dismiss and discharge” officers of the army and navy, for cause,—comments thereon as follows:—“This provision did not, in my opinion, clothe the President with a new power, but gave an express legislative sanction to the exercise of a power incident to the high official trust confided to him.”²

The leading commentators on the Constitution have expressed themselves to the same general effect in regard to the debate of 1789 and its result. Thus Sergeant writes³—“It was determined by Congress that the power of removal belonged to the President by virtue of the clause in the Constitution vesting in him the executive power, and other parts of that instrument, and this construction has since prevailed.”

vol. XI, part I, pp. 455, 513-524; 2 Mallory's Life and Speeches of Clay, 244; 2 Colton's Speeches of Clay, 11-12.

1. XII Opins., 424-426.

2. That this provision of 1862 was “simply declaratory of the long established law,” see XV Opins. At. Gen., 421; also Blake v. U. S., 103 J. S. 234.

As to *other* “declaratory provisions which neither enlarge nor diminish the constitutional power of the President”—see VIII Opins., 233.

With the opinions of Attys. Gen., cited in the text, see II Opins., 67, and XII Id., 4, where the general power to dismiss is recognized by Mr. Wirt and Mr. Stanbery. The power was repeatedly affirmed by Judge Advocate General Holt, in his opinions during the war.

3. Const. Law, 373.

A similar view is expressed by Story of 1789, and Kent refers to it "This amounted to a legislative consent and it has ever since been acquiesced in as a decisive authority in the case. It is an officer of government appointed by Congress whose term of duration is not special but by the weighty reason that the subordinate department ought to hold at the pleasure of the department, because he is invested with executive authority, and every participation in executive power was an exception to a general rule taken strictly. The President is the faithful execution of the law, and his duty is incidental to that duty, and might be otherwise. This question * * * may now be definitely settled, and there is good reason for the construction."

Conclusion. It will appear from the construction of the Constitution in favor of removal, however doubtfully arrived at prior to the legislation of 1866, (inconsistently established by the acceptance of executive authorities and the continued and unimpaired executive department. It would certainly be a conclusion that an executive power thus vested or restricted by Congress without constitutional authority, and that the argument as Attorney General in Union v. The President this power—was founded on the historical history of the enactment of 1866,—

1. 2 Com. on Const. § 1537, note.

2. 1 Com., 310. And see Rawley on Washington, 162.

3. It was carried in the House of Representatives against twenty, but in the Senate only by a majority of one. The Federalist opposed it—views of Story in 2 Com. § 1539.

4. 17 Howard, 288.

as a check upon President Johnson by a Congress toward which he occupied an antagonistic position,—is still remembered.¹ In the light of this history, while the existing law is of course binding till repealed or authoritatively determined to be unconstitutional, it is rather to be respected as an expression of the sentiment of Congress that dismissals, without trial, of army and navy officers, are in general inexpedient in time of peace, than as an exercise of the legislative power “to make rules for the government and regulation of the land forces.” And, in this connection, it may be noted that now, as at the date of the opinion of Atty. Gen. Clifford above cited, it is still declared in the commissions of military officers, as issued from the War Department, that the same are “*to continue in force during the pleasure of the President of the United States.*”

Effect of the ruling in Blake's case. Until recently it had been generally supposed that the legislation of 1866, (admitting its constitutionality,) operated absolutely to prohibit the removal from office, in time of peace, of an officer of the army, (not subject to retirement as presently to be noted,) by any form of proceeding except the sentence of a court-martial. In 1880, however, in the case of a chaplain of the army,² it was held by the Supreme Court that the statute of 1866, in declaring in substance that the President should not summarily dismiss officers, meant simply that “he alone” should not exercise this power; there being, as it was considered, in this legislation “no intention to deny or restrict the power of the President, *by and with the advice and consent of the Senate*, to displace them” (*i. e.* officers of the army and navy) “by the appointment of others in their places.” It was therefore specifically held that—“The President has the power to supersede or remove an officer of the army or the navy,

1. See *Blake v. U. S.*, 103 U. S. 235-236. In this connection should be noticed the “Tenure of office Act” of March 2, 1867, (the provisions of which, as amended by the Act of April 5, 1869, are incorporated in Secs. 1767 *et seq.* of the Rev. Sts.,) by which the concurrence of the Senate is made necessary to the absolute removal of *civil* officers. This measure also was adopted during the same period of political excitement—when the President and Congress were at variance—as was the Act referred to in the text, and, as to the question of its constitutionality, is subject to a similar criticism. See the reference to it by Atty. Gen. Evarts, in *Rollins' case*, XII Opins. 445-6, 449.

2. *Blake v. U. S.*, 103 U. S. 231.

by the appointment, by and with the Senate, of his successor."¹ Under the act determining to remove an officer of the army after a trial which has not resulted in a nomination to the office an eligible person may be nominated if the Senate concur in the nomination before the trial is completed.

Sec. 1229, Rev. Sta.—Dismissal. The provision in the last clause giving the President to drop from the rolls officers who have been absent without leave without an incorporation into the Revised Statutes of s. 17, Act of July 15, 1870, c. 294, is subject to the forfeiture of pay by the officer in the subsequent Sec. 1266.

The dropping from the rolls here referred to, or summary dismissal, is distinguished from that already considered as consisting in the dropping of the name. This latter is a constitutional function of Congress, a special power conferred by Congress on the President in dropping from the army of a useless member who has abandoned it, and the treasury from the services no longer rendered: further, the officer is ineligible for reappointment, Congress disqualification not involved in the dropping, and under the general constitutional authority.

This distinction has been illustrated in *Advocate General*,³ followed by a case, of the Attorney General,⁴ to the effect that an officer has been dropped from the rolls and is not entitled to apply for a trial under Sec. 1230.

1. And see *McElrath v. U. S.*, 102 U. S. 336. Cooley, *Prins. Const. Law*, 437.

2. This is the only *general* statute on the subject. The resolution of Congress, of May 5, 1870, has dropped from the rolls two particular officers. In 1868, Congress had itself dropped six officers for absence from duty.

3. *DIGEST*, 243.

4. *Opin.*, At. Gen., of Feb. 16, 1881. See also the Court of Claims—*Newton v. U. S.*, 1

the latter section applying only to cases of officers summarily dismissed under the general power of removal of the Executive.

Under this statute there had been dropped, up to July, 1885, only *fifteen* officers.

Secs. 1245 and 1252, Rev. Sts.—Dismissal by “Wholly Retiring.” These Sections, (taken from s. 17 of the Act of Aug. 3, 1861, c. 42,) are introduced under this Title as exhibiting a special authority vested in the President to summarily dismiss officers, found to be incapacitated for active duty by causes not incidental to the military service, by what is called “wholly” retiring—an awkward term, since all retired officers are wholly retired, but meaning here dropping altogether from the army; the names of the parties being, as is provided in the latter section, thenceforth “omitted from the Army Register.”¹

The authority here conferred might with reason be regarded as having been divested in 1866 by the operation of the Act of July 13 of that year, heretofore considered, by which the President was prohibited from dismissing officers in time of peace. In practice, however, the Act of 1866 was not treated as having such effect, cases of officers removed by being “wholly retired” being published in nearly all the Army Registers between 1866 and 1874, when the provision of 1861 was re-enacted in the Revised Statutes. Forming now a portion of the same general Act as does the provision, (of Sec. 1229 and Art. 99,) containing such prohibition, and not being repugnant thereto, it is (like the enactment relating to the dropping of officers for desertion,) to be regarded as of equal force with that provision, to the general rule indeed established by which it may, (also like the said enactment,) be viewed as constituting a special exception.²

Sec. 1230, Rev. Sts.—Trial for Officers summarily dismissed. This provision, which is s. 12 of the Act of March 3, 1865, c. 79, has already been fully considered in Chapter VI. It provides for persons removed by executive act from military office³ a formal hearing, and a remedy in case injustice is found

1. Officers wholly retired become at once civilians, and, as such, cannot be readmitted to the army except by a new appointment. DIGEST, 433; *Miller v. U. S.*, 19 Ct. Cl. 339; *McBlair v. U. S.*, Id. 528.

2. See DIGEST, 432.

3. That it does not apply to cases of officers dropped for desertion

to have been done them. Under existing law, however,—in view of the prohibition of such dismissals in time of peace,—this enactment is operative only in time of war.

Sec. 1228, Rev. Sta.—Restoration of Dismissed Officers. This section, which, as illustrating the effect of the dismissal of an officer of the army, is in a measure a complement of Art. 99, is the Act of Congress of July 20, 1868, c. 185, not substantially modified.

Cases of Dismissal by Sentence. This Act was described in its title as “declaratory” of the existing law in regard to officers dismissed by court-martial. That it was declaratory *in fact* of the law as it had existed from the beginning of the government under the Constitution, is indicated by the uniform rulings of the Attorneys General prior to its date. These rulings are to the effect that the only legal mode of restoring to office in the army one who has been duly dismissed therefrom by the sentence of a military court, is by the exercise of the appointing power of the Executive. This, for the reason that the dismissal separates the officer fully and finally from the military service and makes him a private citizen, and that no such citizen can be endowed with a military office except in the way pointed out in the Constitution, *viz.* upon a nomination to the Senate confirmed by that body.¹

Opinions of Attorneys General, &c. Of the rulings referred to, on this subject, some of the principal will be cited—as follows:

Thus, in an opinion given in 1843, in the cases of two naval

under Sec. 1229, R. S.,—see DIGEST, 243; Opin., At. Gen., of Feb. 16, 1881.

1. That the concurrence of the Senate is requisite may be stated as a general principle almost without qualification, since the exceptions thereto are so few. The Constitution, however, provides that Congress *may*, by statute, “vest the appointment of inferior officers”—a term understood to include army officers in general: see X Opins. At. Gen., 450—“in the President alone, in the courts of law, or in the heads of departments;” and in rare cases Congress has been held to have vested *in the President alone* the power to appoint officers of the army. See X Opins., 450; also opinion of Judge Advocate General, (in DIGEST, 106–7,) sustained by the Court of Claims in *Collins v. U. S.*, 14 Ct. Cl. 568, the ruling in which was affirmed in the Same Case in 15 Id., 22.

officers, Lieut. Whitney and Passed Midshipman Moorhead,¹ who had been dismissed by sentence, Atty. Gen. Nelson, in referring, first, to the judgment pronounced in the former case, as harsh, proceeds as follows:—"But I know of no revisory power by which that sentence can now be rescinded, annulled, or modified. It has been passed upon by the competent authority from whose decision the law has provided no appeal. It must, therefore, forever stand as the judgment of the court. The effect of the judgment, it is true, may be removed; not, however, in virtue of any authority to reverse the court's sentence, but in the exercise of the power of appointment with which the Constitution has clothed the President. No case has been brought to my notice in which an officer once dismissed has ever been restored to the service otherwise than by nomination by the Chief Magistrate and confirmation by the Senate, where the grade of the appointment was within the control of their joint action; and if such a case has occurred, I should not hesitate to declare it to be in direct repugnance to the Constitution and the laws, and to every principle applicable to their just and safe construction."

As to the case of the other officer named, this—the Attorney General remarks—"stands precisely, as far as the law is concerned, upon the same footing. The facts disclosed by the record show it to be one in which the sentence pronounced and executed was peculiarly harsh and severe. The proceedings of the court held in his case I do not deem it necessary particularly to discuss. I have no difficulty, however, in stating that they were exceedingly irregular. Testimony, manifestly illegal, was admitted, whilst that which was legal was ruled to be inadmissible. But still I do not perceive how those irregularities can be regarded as annulling the judgment pronounced.² They might have been appealed to as reasons why the revisory power, when called to act upon the proceedings, should not have approved the finding and sentence of the court; but that approval having been signified, they cannot avail wholly to avoid everything that has been

1. IV Opins., 274. It need hardly be remarked that the same rule must necessarily apply to all commissioned officers whether of the navy, army, or marine corps.

2. That mere irregularities in the record, not affecting the legal validity of the proceedings, cannot authorize the setting aside of the sentence—see further, IV Opins. At. Gen., 170; VII Id., 104; X Id., 65, 67; XIV Id., 449.

done. The judgment of the tribunal pronounced and carried into effect, it operated was thenceforth unquestioned. This judgment I hold now to be irreversible. If the officer, after being restored to the service, it must be the duty of the President to exempt him from the punishment, which the President will exercise in accordance with the sense of the exigency of the case."

In a later opinion,¹ the same author states that there is no power by which an officer once brought back to it other than that of the President. And in a further case² he decides that an officer as being—"from the time of his new appointment," that of "a citizen with the public service."

In a subsequent instance—that of the marine corps³—Atty. Gen. Cush states the conclusiveness of a sentence of dismissal approved by the President as the proper law. "The decision of the President of this sort, is that of the ultimate jurisdiction of the President and laws. Like that of any other of law, it is final as to the subject matter, and no legal question which would be the final decision of the President upon the proceedings, as being, for instance, for other cause, absolutely void *ab initio*."

That the result is the same where the proper reviewing office is the War Department and execute the sentence of dismissal of war, under Art. 106,) is indicated by the same Atty. Gen., in Capt. Howe's case. "The President's command," he observes, "affirmed the sentence and carried into execution, there is now no power to review and reverse that sentence. The President has no 'rightful authority

1. IV Opins., 306.

2. Id., 318.

3. VI Id., 370.

4. VI Opins., 514. And see X Id., 66.

5. VI Opins., 507.

sentence of a court pronounced in a case within its jurisdiction, duly approved by the revising power, and actually carried into full and complete execution."

In a subsequent opinion—in the case of Capt. Downing of the navy¹—the same Atty. Gen. describes the effect of a sentence of dismissal, duly confirmed and executed, in the following terms:—"The dismissal thus became a consummated fact, and incapable of being recalled by the President, so that, if" this officer "were to be restored to the navy, it could only be done by a new appointment. In this condition of things, and in the present stage of the case, no question can be raised on the proceedings of the court, save the purely technical one of nullity of sentence for want of jurisdiction."

More recently,² Atty. Gen. Williams, referring to an army officer who had been cashiered by sentence, says of him that he "is out of the army as much as if he had never been in it." And in a later case³ he more fully delineates the status of a duly dismissed officer of the army, as follows:—"His previous connection with the service having ceased, he thereupon became a civilian, and in a legal point of view he can be regarded as standing on no different ground relatively to an appointment to such rank or position than that occupied by any civilian who may never have been in the army. If it would be contrary to the law of the military service to appoint the one thereto, so it would be to appoint the other."

As a further reference—Atty. Gen. Evarts⁴ clearly states the law in regard to an officer of the army dismissed by sentence, in remarking that, after such sentence "is duly confirmed and exe-

1. VII Id., 99.

2. XIV Opins., 449.

3. Id., 502.

4. XII Opins., 548. The same doctrine has recently been repeated by Atty. Gen. Brewster, in Gen. Porter's case, (Opin. of Mch. 15, 1882,) where indeed, in stating that the particular officer, having become, by dismissal, a civilian, can be restored to the army only by a reappointment, he adds that such reappointment must be authorized by special Act of Congress because the Army Regulations require that "*appointments to the rank of General shall be made by selection from the army.*" [In a further opinion in this case, of June 23, 1884, it was held by the same authority that an Act of Congress requiring or authorizing the appointment to a military office of a *particular person designated by name* was unconstitutional, mainly as assuming to limit and control the appointing power of the President.]

cuted, the dismissed officer cannot be reinstated by means of a pardon or in any other manner than by a new appointment and confirmation by the Senate. This is because the execution of the judgment in effect abrogates the officer's commission and entirely dissolves his connection with the service, placing him in exactly the same situation relatively thereto which he occupied previous to his original appointment."¹

Conclusiveness of approved sentence of dismissal.

The extracts thus given illustrate most fully the principle of the conclusiveness of a legal sentence of dismissal adjudged by a military court, when the same has been once duly passed upon by the final authority provided by the code and thereupon executed.² In such an instance the law, having in view the imperative necessity for certain and speedy punishment in the military service, has provided no appeal from the decision and order of the final reviewing officer, (whether President, or—in time of war—military commander,) who, as it is expressed by Mr. Cushing, is thus the "ultimate judge" in the case.³ The sentence of dismissal being once approved and executed—and we have heretofore seen that it becomes executed upon *notice* to the officer of the act of approval or confirmation, officially given—the absolute separation of the party from the military service is a *fait accompli*. The President's, (or military commander's,) authority over the sentence or proceedings of the court, as the final reviewing officer and judge designated by the code, is exhausted, and he is without the power to recall or modify his action. Moreover, as a pardon cannot affect an executed punishment, the President, as the pardoning power under the Constitution, cannot any more do away with the effect of the sentence than he could in the other capacity

1. To the same effect see the recent case of *Vanderslice v. U. S.*, 19 Ct. Cl. 480; *Runkle v. U. S.*, Id. 397.

2. In some of the opinions cited, the fact that the dismissal was executed under a *former* President is referred to as illustrating the absence of authority in the existing Executive to reopen the case. See IV Opins., 170; V Id., 384; VI Id., 507, 514; X Id., 65. This fact, however, cannot affect the question of the legal power. See XI Opins., 22. A sentence of dismissal is as fully executed, and as completely beyond the reach of the reviewing authority or the pardoning power, on the day after that on which it takes effect, as at any subsequent time, however long, thereafter.

3. And see XI Opins., 21.

devolved upon him by the 106th Article. This has already been pointed out in the extract from the opinion of Mr. Evarts, and is illustrated by the Supreme Court in *Ex parte Garland*,¹ where it is said—"A pardon does not restore an office forfeited." Thus the party sentenced is placed in precisely the position of any other civilian who has never been in the army at all. Except in the mode provided by Art. II, Sec. 2, § 2 of the Constitution, he cannot be reinstated in or restored to the Army.²

Illegal restorations, &c., by orders. Such being the law on this subject, the appropriateness of the title of the Act of 1868, in describing it as a statute *declaratory of the existing law*, is clearly perceived. That this legislation was, further, most timely—was in fact needed—is shown by the practice which had grown up in the latter part of the war of making an executive order do the duty of a constitutional appointment, and thus of ignoring the principles of law governing the filling of offices in the army as well as those determining the effect of the judgments of courts-martial.

The extent to which this practice had been carried can only be appreciated by consulting the published General Orders³ of the War Department, especially during the years 1865 to 1867 inclusive. Here will be found order after order in which the *legal* and *executed* sentences of military tribunals were assumed to be set aside, and the officers, duly dismissed thereby, to be thereupon restored to, or redetached honorably from, the army. In some of these cases the officer, (who upon the execution of his sentence had become a civilian,) is "reinstated in," or "restored" or "returned to" his former office and rank;⁴ in others he is "honorably discharged" from, or "mustered out" of, the military service;⁵ in others his resignation is accepted, (or per-

1. 4 Wallace, 381. And see *Vanderslice v. U. S.*, 19 Ct. Cl. 480.

2. See, further, in this connection, Report 808 of the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, of March 3, 1879. 45th Cong., 3d Sess.; DIGEST, 237-8, 390-1.

3. A large number is also to be found in the Special Orders.

4. See G. O. 81, 116, of 1863; G. C. M. O. 378, 540, 550, 630, 675, of 1865; Do. 9, 160, 171, 201, 206, of 1866; Do. 75, 81, 90, 97, 105, of 1867; Do. 46 of 1868; Do. 19 of 1870.

5. See G. C. M. O. 559 of 1865; Do. 3, 21, 64, 65, 80, 81, 93, 99, 122, 133, 161, 172, 180, 205, 207, 221, of 1866; Do. 17, 20, 86, 88, 89, of 1867; Do. 2, 78, of 1868; Do. 44 of 1869.

mitted to be tendered,) as of the date generally of the preceding dismissal.' In the majority of these Orders the sentence is declared to be "revoked;" in others it is "set aside" or "annulled." In one it is "vacated," in another "voided," in others "modified"—to honorable discharge. In several the sentence, once duly approved by a competent commander, (and executed,) is again reviewed and "disapproved;" in some the pardoning power is applied, and the executed sentence "remitted" or the individual "pardoned."

It need hardly be observed that the action in *all these cases* proceeded upon a misconception of law and of the executive function, and was wholly without legal authority. Those Orders which, in assuming to "revoke" or "set aside" a regular and valid sentence, declared the party to be "honorably discharged" or "mustered out," or announced that his resignation was accepted, were equally illegal with those which professed to reinstate him as an officer, since to discharge or muster out as an officer one who is a civilian, or to permit him to resign as such, it is necessary first to put him back into the army.

Restorations, &c., by legislation. It is thus perceived that the statute of 1868, in recalling the military department of the government within its proper province, and in reaffirming the rule of law governing cases of the class under consideration, was a judicious and opportune measure. Upon its enactment, the practice above indicated was presently discontinued, and the more recent cases of a disregard of the organic law in the particular under consideration are not cases of executive orders but of statutory enactments by Congress. Thus, by an Act of March 3, 1873, c. 250, the Secretary of War was "authorized and directed to restore" a party named,—who, as a captain in the veteran reserve corps, had been dismissed by sentence in March, 1865, (since which time that corps had ceased to exist,)—"to his position as such captain, and grant him an honorable muster-out as of the date on which he was dismissed." Again, by an Act of June 9, 1874, c. 273, the Secretary of War was "authorized and directed to give to" a party, who, as a captain of a regular regiment, had been dismissed by sentence in June, 1870, "an honorable dis-

1. G. O. 27 of 1865; G. C. M. O. 271, 629, of 1865; Do. 16, 225, of 1866; Do. 26, of 1867.

charge from the service of the United States, to date" as of the date of his dismissal. Still further, by an Act of June 23, 1874, c. 499, it was provided—"That the Secretary of War be and is hereby directed to amend the record of," (a lieutenant named who had been dismissed by court-martial in July, 1870,) "so that he shall appear on the rolls and records of the army for rank as if he had been continuously in service."

These provisions were all at variance with the provisions of the Constitution relating to appointments.¹ Congress has no power, of itself, to restore to the Army a legally dismissed officer, or—since, to do so, it must first restore him to it—to grant him an honorable discharge from it. Nor has it any authority to empower the President or Secretary of War to do either,—except indeed, in so far as it may authorize a restoration by a new *appointment* under Art. II of the Constitution. As to the Act last above cited, of 1874, it is to be remarked that the same was held by the Attorney General to have been wholly inoperative, at least for the purpose for which it was apparently designed.² "The Act in question," he observes, "seems to proceed upon the idea that the obliteration of the Army records, as therein provided for, will *ipso facto* restore" the party "to the office from which he was dismissed. This idea is in conflict with the Constitution of the United States." The party, "in pursuance of the sentence of a duly organized court-martial, was discharged from the Army in 1870, and since that time his relations to it have been like those of any other private citizen. Any mistake by this tribunal, not involving its jurisdiction, does not affect the validity of its proceedings. Congress cannot annihilate a fact by causing the record-evidence of its existence to be destroyed; nor can Congress constitutionally appoint a private citizen a lieutenant, colonel, or general in the Army. The appointing power is vested by the Constitution 'in the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate,' except where it is vested by law in the courts or the heads of Departments."³

1. See on the subject of this class of legislation—DIGEST, 341-344; also recent case of *Wood v. U. S.*, 15 Ct. Cl. 151, in which the principle that appointments to office cannot be made by Congressional enactment is illustrated in the case of an army officer.

2. XIV Opins., 448. The effect which is given to the Act in the opinion is certainly a remarkable instance of a liberal construction.

3. A more recent instance of exceptional and objectionable legislation

Restoration of Officers dismissed by Order. In connection with the specific subject of the Section under consideration—the restoration of officers dismissed by *sentence*—it may well be noticed that the same constitutional principle and the same rule of law apply equally and alike to cases of officers dismissed or separated from the military service in any other legal and authorized manner.

Rulings on the subject. Thus, an officer dismissed by *summary order* of the President, (at a time when that form of removal from office had not been prohibited by statute,) was as fully and completely made a civilian as where dismissed by *sentence*, and could not therefore be restored by a new order revoking the original order, but by a reappointment alone. This also has been uniformly held by the Attys. Gen., who have also noticed that the justice or injustice of the dismissal was an immaterial circumstance. Thus in the case of Surgeon Du Barry of the navy,¹ dismissed by executive order without trial, it was observed by Atty. Gen. Legaré, as follows:—"He was clearly out of the service by a lawful and valid, however harsh, (and even it may be unfair,) exercise of the appointing power. If he has been restored, it has not been by avoiding the act dismissing him, for that could not be done. It was beyond the power of the Executive. All that the President can do, in such cases, is to repair any wrong done by a new appointment." And, in a further opinion in the same case,² another Atty. Gen., Mr. Clifford, says:—"No process of reasoning or fiction of law will enable his

of this class was the Act of March 15, 1878, by which the President was authorized to "annul and set aside the findings and sentence" of a general court-martial by which an officer had been legally dismissed from the military service, and to "place him on the retired list of the army." A later and even more extraordinary instance was that of the Joint Resolution of March 3, 1879, by which the Secretary of War was "required to order a military court-martial or court of inquiry to inquire into the matter of the dismissal" of a certain officer named; "said court to be fully empowered to confirm or annul the action of the War Department by which said" officer was "summarily dismissed the service" in 1863; the "findings" of the court "to have the effect of restoring" said officer "to his rank, with the promotion to which he would be entitled if it be found that he was wrongfully dismissed, or to confirm his dismissal if it be otherwise found"!

1. IV Opins. 124. And see the general observations applicable to either form of dismissal, already cited from XIV Id., 502.

2. IV Opins., 604.

counsel to escape from the fact that, during all this time," (the period during which the order of dismissal was in operation,) he was a private citizen holding no commission under the authority of the United States." In a later opinion,¹ Mr. Cushing places the two forms of dismissal upon the same footing as respects the power of the Executive to rehabilitate or relieve the officer; and in a more recent case,² of an officer of the army dismissed by order and subsequently sought to be restored by a second order assuming to revoke the former, Mr. Browning, citing as authority Atty. Gen. Nelson's opinion, already quoted, in the case of the two naval officers dismissed by *sentence*, holds that the relations of an officer to the service being "dissolved" by an executive order of dismissal, "a revocation of the order dismissing him cannot work his restoration;" in other words, that the order of so-called revocation is a simple nullity and wholly futile, revoking nothing.

The only counter authority known to exist on this point is that of the Court of Claims in the early case of *Smith v. United States*,³ in which it was held that where an executive order was issued revoking a previous summary order of dismissal in the same case, the prior order "was revoked from its inception and altogether;" that "all its consequences were annulled;" and that the officer was to be viewed as having been in office continuously during the entire interval between the date of the order of dismissal and that of the revocation, and entitled to full pay for such period. This eccentric doctrine, however, though repeated in some other of the earlier cases passed upon in that court,⁴ was finally abandoned by the same in *McElrath's case*,⁵ and the correct doctrine as there held has been reaffirmed in later rulings.⁶

1. VIII Opins., 235.

2. XII Id., 427. And see DIGEST, 241, 390-1. It follows that any Orders of the War Department, in which valid summary dismissals have been revoked, were, so far, unauthorized and legally inoperative. See cases in G. C. M. O. 637 of 1865; Do. 76 of 1866.

3. 2 Ct. Cl. 206. The fact, to which importance was attached in this case,—that the original order was unjust and that the revoking order was made to right the wrong done,—was really wholly immaterial.

4. *Winters v. U. S.*, 3 Ct. Cl. 136; *Barnes v. U. S.*, 4 Ct. Cl. 216; *Montgomery v. U. S.*, 5 Ct. Cl. 93.

5. *McElrath v. U. S.*, 12 Ct. Cl. 202; affirmed in 102 U. S. 426.

6. *Balen v. U. S.*, 19 Ct. Cl. 389; *Montgomery v. U. S.*, Id. 370; *Miller v. U. S.*, Id. 338; *U. S. v. Corson*, 114 U. S. 619.

Cases of officers otherwise separated from the army.

The principle thus illustrated is the same, and the same rule is to be applied, where, in any legally authorized mode or form *other than* by summary order of dismissal, the officer is separated from the military service. As, for instance, where he is discharged by the Executive, not as an original act, but under and by reason of a public statute expressly requiring such discharge.¹ So, where he is "dropped" under Sec. 1229, or "wholly retired" under Sec. 1252, of the Revised Statutes, already considered. And so, where the officer has tendered his resignation and the same has been duly accepted: here also it has been held by Atty. Gen. Evarts,³ that, upon such acceptance, the officer is "out of the service as completely as if he had never been in it," and "that he can only be restored to it by a new appointment made conformably to the Constitution;" further, that an order assuming to revoke an acceptance of a resignation, after the same had once taken effect, is of no legal validity.

Result. The result of this general examination of the subject is, that in all cases where an officer of the army is legally separated from the military service, and remanded, as he must thereupon at once be, to the status of a civilian,—whether this be effected by sentence of general court-martial, summary order, dropping, retiring, acceptance of resignation, or otherwise,—the mode pointed out in Section 1228 of the Revised Statutes, and in Art. II, Sec. 2 § 2, of the Constitution, is the only legal mode by which he can be restored to the army; that any other mode, whether resorted to by the executive or legislative department of the government, is in derogation of the Constitution and wholly futile;⁴ that it in no manner affects the application of the general principle that the dismissal may have been quite unwarranted by the facts or grossly unjust; and that the only exception to such

1. See V Opins., 101; also VIII Id., 223.

2. See the principle applied to a case of a "wholly retired" officer in *McBlair v. U. S.*, 19 Ct. Cl. 528; also in *Miller v. U. S.*, Id. 338.

3. Capt. Mimmack's case, XII Opins., 555; Do. XIV Id., 262. See also this case reported in 10 Ct. Cl. 584, where a similar result is reached upon quaint reasoning, and in 97 U. S. 426, where the previous rulings are affirmed. These rulings have been still later reaffirmed in the case of *Bennett v. U. S.*, 19 Ct. Cl. 379. And see XIV Opins., 499.

4. See—generally—the Opinions of the At. Gen. in *Gen. Porter's Case*, of March 15, 1882, and June 23, 1884.

application is where the original dismissal was absolutely illegal and therefore inoperative—as where, the dismissal having been by sentence, the proceedings of the court, from defect of constitution, want of jurisdiction, or otherwise, were rendered null and void. Such case, however, is really no exception, since here there has been no dismissal in law.

XXIX. THE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SECOND,
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD, AND
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-
FOURTH ARTICLES.

[RELATIVE RIGHT OF COMMAND, RELATIVE RANK, &C., OF
DIFFERENT CLASSES OF OFFICERS.]

“ART. 122. *If, upon marches, guards, or in quarters, different corps of the Army happen to join or do duty together, the officer highest in rank of the line of the Army, Marine Corps, or militia, by commission, there on duty or in quarters, shall command the whole, and give orders for what is needful to the service, unless otherwise specially directed by the President, according to the nature of the case.*

“ART 123. *In all matters relating to the rank, duties, and rights of officers, the same rules and regulations shall apply to officers of the Regular Army and to volunteers commissioned in, or mustered into said service, under the laws of the United States, for a limited period.*

“ART. 124. *Officers of the militia of the several States, when called into the service of the United States, shall on all detachments, courts-martial, and other duty wherein they may be employed in conjunction with the regular or volunteer forces of the United States, take rank next after all officers of the like grade in said regular or volunteer forces, notwithstanding the commissions of such militia officers may be older than the commissions of the said officers of the regular or volunteer forces of the United States.*”

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SECOND ARTICLE.

Origin. The original of this provision, as taken from a corresponding British Article, is found in Art. 25, Sec. XIII, of the

code of 1776. It first appears, however, in its present form, in the 62d Article of 1806.

Construction—“*If upon marches, guards, or in quarters.*” This somewhat antiquated form of expression, which might well be dropped altogether from the Article, or be replaced by some simpler and more comprehensive term, is no doubt intended to cover all occasions of duty where different corps of the military force would be likely to meet for joint service, whether upon a campaign against an enemy, or when quartered together at a garrison or military post in time of peace.

“Different corps of the Army.” As in Art. 82, heretofore considered, the term “corps” is regarded as used here in a general sense, as extending to any separate and distinct arm or branch of the service comprised in the existing military establishment. The description “different corps of the army” is therefore construed as embracing, on the one hand, the infantry, cavalry, and artillery, and, on the other hand, the various departments, &c., or individual officers, included under the general term *staff*—a term which will be more particularly defined hereafter.

Further, the word “corps,” as here employed, is interpreted as meaning not only an organized body or complete portion of the force, but any officered detachment however small or even single officer, representing such an organization or portion.¹ It has already been noticed² that the term “different corps” in Art. 82 is held to allow of the same application.

“Happen to join or do duty together.” This phrase is evidently intended to comprehend not only occasions where different corps are employed together upon some specific duty under express orders, but where, by the chances of an engagement, a march, or other incident of the service, such corps come to meet and combine in any military operation or movement, or in the occupation of the same camp, garrison, or post. A mere fortuitous and temporary meeting, where the two or more separate bodies or detachments do not in fact combine, and where no oc-

1. See Circ. 3, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1865.

2. Chapter XXII—“Construction of Art. 82.”

casion arises for the assumption of a single command over the whole, is of course not contemplated.

"The officer highest in rank by commission shall command the whole," &c. This means the officer who is highest or senior in rank by the commission under which he is at the time serving.¹ He may possess a commission in a higher rank than that in which he is actually serving, but it will not be available for conferring command under the circumstances contemplated by the Article. Thus a captain may also be a colonel by brevet, but unless he has been specially assigned to duty according to his brevet rank,² and is serving at the time under that assignment, he cannot claim any right of command pertaining to such rank.

The provision of the Article is also operative where the original commander of the mixed command absents himself or is disabled by wounds or illness. In such case the Article devolves the command upon the next senior line officer present, as his successor.³

"Of the line of the Army." The term "line of the Army" is susceptible of being interpreted as intending Regulars or U. S. forces as distinguished from State or other local troops; an officer of the line of the army thus being one who holds his commission under the authority of the United States as distinguished from one who holds it by the appointment of a Governor or other local authority. This interpretation receives support from the fact that during the Revolutionary war the term *line* was frequently employed in the laws and proceedings of Congress to indicate the military contingent of a particular State—as the "Pennsylvania line," the "New Jersey line," the "Virginia line,"⁴ while in referring to the regular army, or the army as a whole, the term "line of the army" or "continental line" was sometimes used.⁵

1. See O'Brien, 51, 55.

2. Under Sec. 1211, Rev. Sts., as now restricted by Act of March 3, 1883, providing that officers shall be so assigned "only when actually engaged in hostilities."

3. See G. O. 14, Dept. of the Ohio, 1865.

4. The "Virginia line" is also referred to in the later Acts of Aug. 10, 1790, and June 9, 1794.

5. See III Jour. Cong., 132, 572, 705, where this line and the line or lines of a State or States, are directly contrasted.

In support of this ruling it is declared in the Order that the term *line* is employed almost uniformly elsewhere in the public laws as "correlative and contradistinctive" to *staff*. A case referred to, (as occurring in the same statute,) is that of Art. 74 of 1806, in which the phrase—"in the line or staff of the Army," is used as a comprehensive description of the military establishment in general. Other cases are cited from a series of Acts between 1813 and 1847. It is however to *prior* Acts—*i. e.* to legislation had by Congress between the adoption of the Constitution in 1789 and the enactment of the code of 1806—that reference should especially be had in this connection, and such legislation is in fact found to present repeated instances in which the term "line of the Army" is employed to designate the line as distinguished from the staff.¹

The Line and Staff Officers of the Present Establishment, distinguished. The *line* officers proper of the army as now organized comprise all the officers—colonels, lieutenant colonels, majors, captains and lieutenants—of the existing five regiments of artillery, ten regiments of cavalry, and twenty-five regiments of infantry; *line* being thus substantially equivalent to *regimental*. These officers, however, are line officers, in the sense of the Article, only when acting or serving as such: a line officer detailed upon staff duty ceases for the time to be a part of the line.

The *other* officers of the establishment,—with the exception of a single class yet to be specified,—are those designated as *staff* officers; this description comprising—(1) the officers of the "*gen-*

British Army from other corps." And see Burns' Mil. and Naval Technological Dict.—"Ligne." Duane, (an American writer,) who follows James, says in his Mil. Dict.—"The marines, militia, and volunteers do not come under the term." The present prevailing and familiar construction, however, of the term *line* is as given in the text.

1. See Acts of March 3, 1791, s. 5; March 5, 1792, s. 7; May 30, 1796, s. 3, 12, 13; March 3, 1797, s. 2; May 28, 1798, s. 6; July 11, 1798, s. 2; July 16, 1798, s. 3, 4; March 16, 1802, s. 3, 4; February 28, 1803, s. 2. And see also earlier instances in 3 Jour. Cong., 273; 4 Id., 165.

It may be noted here that the word "line" was sometimes employed in the early statutes in another and more specific sense, to indicate a separate and distinct arm or portion of the forces. Thus—"the line of major generals," (3 Jour. Cong., 202;)—"the line of infantry in the army of the United States," (Id., 560;)—"the line of artillerists and engineers," (Act of July 16, 1798, s. 9;)—"the lines of artillerists, light artillery, dragoons, riflemen and infantry, respectively," (Act of June 26, 1812, s. 5.)

eral staff," i. e. the staff of the President as Commander-in-chief,¹ consisting of the heads and members of the different staff "corps" or "departments" serving in the War Department at Washington or at the headquarters of military Divisions or Departments, or other stations; (2) the officers of the *personal* staffs of commanding generals, consisting of the aids, (and military secretary of the Lieut. General,) allowed by statute.

Line and General Officers distinguished. The excepted class above indicated are the *general officers* of the army, (other than those at the head of the staff corps,) now consisting of one Lieutenant General, three Major Generals, and six Brigadier Generals. These officers, commanding as they do both staff and line, and charged as they are with duties and responsibilities incident to a supervision of both staff and line service, are themselves clearly no more line than staff officers,² and are therefore not included in the description "of the line of the Army" employed in the Article. Command, however, being of the very essence of their rank and office, a construction of the Article which would exclude them from command, under the circumstances therein specified, would involve an absurdity. No such construction, however, is required, for the reason that this is evidently a class of officers *not contemplated by the Article at all*, but quite outside of and beyond its application. It thus follows that their right of command, upon occasions of the coöperating of bodies of troops, is in no manner affected by the Article, but is to be determined, in the absence of any special assignment, (*i. e.* "unless otherwise specially directed by the President,") by the established military rule of superior rank and seniority. In other words, as remarked by the Secretary of War, in the Order above cited,³ the Article was designed to meet only cases where, upon the uniting of different corps, there is present "*no common*

1. Stocqueler, (Mil. Encyc.,) defines "Staff," (*i. e.* what is known with us as the "General Staff,") as—"the body of officers intrusted with the general duties of the army in aid of a Commander-in-chief." And see DIGEST, 276-7.

2. In a few of the early statutes—(see Acts of March 5, 1792, s. 7; March 3, 1795, s. 10)—fixing the pay of the army, the officers are classed under the two heads of "General Staff" and "Regimental;" the *general* officers being named under the former. This classification, however, subsisted for but a brief period.

3. G. O. 51 of 1851.

superior" of the line officers commanding the several detachments. If indeed, he adds, "there be a Major General or Brigadier General present, the case contemplated by the Article does not exist: no question can arise as to the right of command, because the general officer, not belonging to any particular corps, takes the command by virtue of the general rule which assigns the command to the officer highest in rank."

Assimilated Cases—Marine Corps or Militia. By the terms of the Article, line officers of the Marine Corps, when "detached for service with the Army," as indicated in Art. 78, and line officers of Militia, when mobilized and serving with it under a call by the President, are assimilated to officers of the army proper, so far as respects the right of command.

But here it is to be observed that the provision as to militia officers is to be taken as subject to the provision of Art. 124,—that when such officers are "employed in conjunction with the regular or volunteer forces of the United States," they shall "take rank next after all officers of the like grade in said forces," notwithstanding that their commissions may be older than those of the officers referred to. Thus a captain of regulars or volunteers would be entitled to the command in preference to a captain of militia with whom he was joined in service, though the commission of the latter bore an earlier date: a captain of militia, however, would of course take precedence of and command a lieutenant of regulars or volunteers under the same circumstances. The two Articles—the 122d and the 124th—are, as they stand, somewhat contradictory, but, being parts of the same statute, it is necessary to give that force to the provisions of each which they would have if they constituted but one section in which the second appeared in the form of a proviso to the first.

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD ARTICLE.

Origin. This statute, which first appears as an Article of war in the existing revised code of 1874, is a concise form of a provision of sec. 2 of the Act of March 2, 1867, c. 159; which section, omitting the last clause, (which provides that the Act shall not apply to the militia,) enacted as follows:—"That in all matters relating to pay, allowances, rank, duties, privileges, and rights of officers and soldiers of the army of the United States, the same

rules and regulations shall apply without distinction for such time as they may be or have been in the service, alike to those who belong permanently to that service and to those who, as volunteers, may be or have been commissioned or mustered into the military service under the laws of the United States for a limited period."

That portion of this section which refers to the "pay and allowances of officers and soldiers" is incorporated in Sec. 1292, Rev. Sts.¹

Effect and Spirit. This Article, recognizing the principle that officers and soldiers of *volunteers* in the U. S. service are a constituent part of the Army which Congress is authorized by the Constitution to raise and support, and that, except as to their term of service, no legal distinction exists between them and the officers and soldiers commonly designated as "regulars," places specifically the officers of both contingents upon precisely the same footing as to precedence, command, and all other rights and duties attached or pertaining to rank or office.² The term "rules and regulations" is viewed as employed in the statute in a general sense, and as intended to embrace all laws, army regulations and orders by which the rights and privileges of the members of the military establishment are defined and fixed.

A tribute to the volunteers. The statute of 1867, as now represented by this Article and by Sec. 1292, Rev. Sts., is really a tribute to the services of the volunteer forces during the late war. Prior to this legislation, a discrimination, as to rank and precedence, in favor of regular officers over officers commissioned by State authority, which had been initiated by the Resolution of Congress of Nov. 4, 1775,³ and Art. 2 of Sec. XVII of the code

1. In XV Opins., 332-3, the Attorney General, in referring to the original provision of 1867 as having "undergone very material modification in the revision of the Statutes," observes that "part of it appears in Sec. 1292, R. S.," and "part of it also in the 123d Article."

2. It may be remarked here that par. 11 of the Army Regulations, in so far as it relates to volunteer officers, whether commissioned by Governors of States or by the President, is in contravention of this Article, and therefore without legal effect.

3. This is in full as follows:—"Resolved, That the officers on the continental establishment shall, when acting in conjunction with officers of equal rank on the provincial establishment, take command of the latter and also of the militia; and the officers of the troops on the provincial establishment shall, when acting in conjunction with the officers of the

of 1776, had been continued in Art. 98 of the code of 1806 which remained in force pending the war. But during this exigency, from the first *levée en masse* to the end of the rebellion in 1866, the volunteer element of the national army had become so vastly augmented as not only greatly to exceed all others but finally, so far as the enlisted men were concerned, to comprise practically the efficient fighting force.¹ The public services of this class of troops had been in proportion to their numbers. Without them the rebellion could never have been suppressed or the sovereignty of the United States re-established. At the same time the *militia* proper, though valuable as far as they went, and especially at the outset of the war, had been shown to be a far less considerable and available element of our military strength. Hence the justice, at the termination of hostilities, of placing upon the statute book an enactment testifying to the worth and importance of the volunteer forces by putting an end to the previous discriminations against them and assimilating them in every respect, while remaining in the Army, to the most favored class of the military,² and, further, by providing that at any future period of war or public danger, when their employment should be authorized by Congress, they should enter and remain in the Army on the same footing and with the same rights as the permanent establishment.

Application of the Article. It is manifest from its terms, and has indeed been specifically so held by the Judge Advocate General³ and the Attorney General,⁴ that the Article is operative only at a period when regular and volunteer officers are serving

militia, take command and precedence of the latter of equal rank, notwithstanding prior dates of commissions."

1. Gen. R. B. Ayres, who commanded a large portion of the regular force in the late war, testified on the Warren Court of Inquiry, with reference to the state of his command at the date of the battle of Five Forks, fought at the end of the war, on April 1, 1865, as follows:—"Q. Had you any of the regulars of your division here? A. No; the regulars had been buried. I had regulars—what were known as the regular division, before I went into the battle of Gettysburg. I left one half of them there, and buried the rest in the Wilderness. There were no regulars left."

2. And see Art. 124, where regular and volunteer officers are assimilated in their relations to *militia* officers.

3. DIGEST, 410.

4. XV Opins., 333.

together in the army as "distinctive classes of commissioned officers." The Article has therefore no *present* application; and now that all claims of officers of the army to pay, rank, &c., by virtue of their volunteer service, are practically settled, the principal significance of the statute is that which attaches to its history.

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOURTH ARTICLE.

Origin and Effect. The origin of this provision is to be found in the Resolution of Congress of Nov. 4, 1775, cited under the last Article, and in Art. 2, Sec. XVII of 1776, re-enacted in Art. 98 of 1806. Its effect is to subordinate militia officers, as to precedence, relative rank, and relative right of command, to officers both of regulars and volunteers, on all occasions of their serving jointly with the latter. As contained in the present Article, this provision is but a reiteration of the law which, existing from the initiation of the Government, has classed the militia as the inferior element of the available military strength of the nation.¹

Determination of Relative Rank under the foregoing Articles. Questions of relative rank arising under the three preceding Articles can—it may be remarked—be determined by military superiors, courts-martial, courts of inquiry, &c., only by a reference to the Army Register, or—where the rank is not stated or does not fully appear therein—to the date of the commission or appointment under which the officer is at the time serving. Claims for higher relative rank, or for priority in rank, not assigned to them by the Register, have not unfrequently been raised by officers, (especially of the staff corps,) and in some instances with good reason and justice. Such claims have in certain cases been adjusted by the Secretary of War, (after a reference sometimes to Boards of Officers for report and opinion;) but, commonly, involving, as their settlement must in general do, questions as to vested rights of others than the claimants, the latter have been referred to Congress for the relief sought. That such claims cannot be adjudicated by military courts or commanders

1. As already indicated, the Act of March 2, 1867, c. 159, s. 2, in assimilating volunteers to regulars, as to their rights and privileges, takes care by an express proviso to exclude the *militia* from any such relation.

is quite clear. For this reason, and because the same are usually determined not by fixed principles but by the facts and circumstances of each particular instance, this class of questions will not here be discussed.

XXX. THE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIFTH, ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH, AND ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH ARTICLES.

[DISPOSITION OF EFFECTS OF DECEASED OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS.]

"ART. 125. *In case of the death of any officer, the major of his regiment, or the officer doing the major's duty, or the second officer in command at any post or garrison, as the case may be, shall immediately secure all his effects then in camp or quarters, and shall make, and transmit to the office of the Department of War, an inventory thereof.*

"ART. 126. *In case of the death of any soldier, the commanding officer of his troop, battery, or company shall immediately secure all his effects then in camp or quarters, and shall, in the presence of two other officers, make an inventory thereof, which he shall transmit to the office of the Department of War.*

"ART. 127. *Officers charged with the care of the effects of deceased officers or soldiers shall account for and deliver the same, or the proceeds thereof, to the legal representatives of such deceased officers or soldiers. And no officer so charged shall be permitted to quit the regiment or post until he has deposited in the hands of the commanding officer all the effects of such deceased officers or soldiers not so accounted for and delivered.*"

These Articles will be considered together.

Original and Other Provisions. The substance of these Articles is traced by Samuel¹ to the ordinances of the Tudors and Stuarts.² He notes the fact that at an early period *courts-martial*

1. Pages 656, 657. And see Clode, 1 M. F., 213.

2. See Art. 59 of the Code of James II, in Appendix. Similar provisions were also contained in the Articles of the Earl of Essex, of 1642, and those of Charles II, of 1666.

were invested with a peculiar probate jurisdiction in the matter of the administration of the estates of military persons,¹—a jurisdiction of which a vestige is perceived in the requirement of our own original Articles on the subject, that the inventory of a deceased officer's effects should be made "before the next regimental court-martial."

In the existing British law, the specific provisions from which ours were taken have some time disappeared from the military code, having been superseded by a separate Act of Parliament, *viz.* the 26th and 27th Vict., c. 57, of July 21, 1863, known as the "Regimental Debts Act," in aid of which separate Regulations were issued by the Crown on April 22, 1881."

In our law, the matter of the disposition of the effects of deceased military persons formed the subject of Arts. 68 and 69 of 1775, Arts. 1 and 2 of Sec. XV of 1776, and Arts. 94 and 95 of 1806.

The Articles under consideration are supplemented by regulations contained in Arts. XIV and XXIII of the Army Regulations.

Application of the Articles. These articles, doubtless enacted with a view mainly to instances of officers or soldiers dying either in active service in war, or at remote posts or strictly military stations,² were apparently intended to apply to cases of officers of *regiments* and soldiers of organized *companies*. By a liberal construction, however, they are operative in cases of any other officers serving, at their decease, in the field or with a "post or garrison" command. So where soldiers who die when similarly serving are not members of a company, it will be within the spirit of Art. 126 for the commanding officer, whether or not a company commander, to proceed as therein specified.

It need not affect the substantial application of the Articles that the officer or soldier deceases when temporarily *absent* from his regiment, company, &c. Such cases appear to be contemplated by pars. 118 and 228 of the Army Regulations.

The cases to which the Articles are least adapted to apply are such as those of officers or soldiers of staff corps, or aids of gen-

1. O'Brien, (p. 157,) repeats Samuel.

2. The Act and Regulations are to be found in the Manual, pp. 633-652.

3. See DIGEST, 100.

erals, serving at Washington, at Division or Department headquarters, or at stations which are not military posts, and officers or soldiers on the retired list. In such and similar instances, the estate, real and personal, of the deceased, while, if necessary, it may properly be placed in temporary charge of an officer of the command, will, regularly, presently be disposed of according to the laws of the State, Territory, or District, in which the party deceased or resided, or in which the property may be situate or held.

The Duties Enjoined. These consist in the securing of the effects, the making and transmitting of an inventory, the taking care of the property, and the accounting for and delivery of the same to the proper legal representative. A further duty is devolved upon the officer in charge of the effects, to turn them over, in the event of his absenting himself from the command, to the commanding officer.

Securing the effects. The term "secure" properly means to collect and take into safe possession. The officer designated for the duty will thus take charge forthwith of such articles of property as were in the personal possession of the officer or soldier at his decease, as also of such as, being in the possession of others, are voluntarily surrendered, or may be reached by means of an order requiring their delivery or if necessary by the use of military force. He may also, as is remarked by O'Brien,¹ receive money *voluntarily paid* in satisfaction or partial satisfaction of debts due the deceased. But the officer is merely performing a military duty; *he is in no sense an administrator*. He has therefore no authority to institute an action at law for the recovery of a debt due the estate or property withheld therefrom:² should he assume such a responsibility, he might render himself personally liable for the amount involved, in whole or in part, as an "executor *de son tort*"³—a result which the Articles clearly could not have contemplated.

The effects indeed which are required to be secured are such

1. Page 157.

2. See Samuel, 659; O'Brien, 157.

3. An executor *de son tort*, (or *of his own wrong*.) is one who, by intermeddling without legal authority with the estate, subjects himself to the liability of a regular legal representative. See DIGEST, 100.

as are "then in camp or quarters." As to the meaning of these words, as employed in the corresponding British Articles, Hough¹ cites an opinion, given in 1819, by the law officers of the Crown, to the effect that the term refers only to movables or money actually found in quarters, "and not to effects, debts, or money in the hands of third persons." The officer will thus fully perform his strict duty under the Articles if he simply "secure" the immediate tangible personal effects of the deceased.*

Making and transmitting the inventory. The inventory is of course a detailed list of the specific effects of the deceased—clothing, furniture, valuable papers, jewelry, arms, animals and all other articles of personal property left by him in camp or quarters at his death. It should be subscribed by the officer making it, in his official capacity; and, in compliance with the direction of Art. 126, the inventory of the effects of an *enlisted man* should be made and executed "in the presence of two other officers," who also will properly affix their names to the paper as witnesses.

Directions as to the making up and forwarding of inventories are contained in pars. 119, 226 and 227 of the Army Regulations.

Taking care of the property. "Care" means properly the safe custody and preservation of the articles as secured. The officer, not being an administrator, is not authorized to pay, out of the effects, any debts of the deceased, or even the expenses, (if such are incurred,) of his funeral;³ if he does so, he subjects himself to a personal liability for the pecuniary amount thus diverted.⁴ The question of the authority to *sell* property in any case will be referred to under the next head. The period during which the *care* of the specific effects is in general to be exercised

1. Page 556.

2. As to the proceedings on the death of an officer charged with *public* property or money, see par. 121, Army Regulations.

3. As to the defraying of such expenses, see pars. 122, 123, Army Regs.

4. "It would be at the private responsibility of the officer, if he further intermeddled with the estate of the deceased than he is of necessity authorized by the Articles, in the particulars ordained." Samuel, 659. In Memo., Dept. of the Columbia, March 23, 1873, Gen. Canby observes that the officer in charge, being "a *quasi* administrator, may properly make such expenditures as may be necessary to prevent waste or loss until the effects are taken charge of by the family, or a legal administrator is appointed." But, as we have seen, the officer is in fact not an

is limited by the Regulations¹ to "two months" in the case of an officer, and to "a short period after his decease" in the case of an enlisted man.

Accounting. Art. 127 enjoins that "officers charged with the care of the effects of deceased officers or soldiers shall account for and deliver the same, or the proceeds thereof, to the legal representatives of such deceased." The legal representative of a deceased officer or soldier is the executor, if any, nominated by him in his will,² or—where there is no will, or no such nomination—the administrator appointed by the proper judge of probate, surrogate, or other authorized official. The representative must of course have been duly qualified, and the officer will not ordinarily be justified in surrendering the property to a person assuming to be the legal representative of the deceased, except upon his exhibiting formal letters testamentary granted to him by competent authority.

The words "or the proceeds thereof," which do not appear in the earlier forms of the Article, are deemed to have reference primarily to the proceeds of the sales, directed or authorized by pars. 120 and 229 of the Regulations to be resorted to after a certain interval provided that legal representatives do not meanwhile appear. Otherwise, *i. e.* pending such interval, a sale should not be made except in an extreme instance. Where indeed, on account of some military movement or other emergency, the property, or any part of it, cannot be removed or longer cared for, or where it is perishable in its nature and cannot be kept without serious damage, the Article may be regarded as authorizing its sale and conversion into money in the interest of those entitled. The officer in charge, however, should not in general resort to a sale, other than as indicated in the Regulations, without the approval of the proper commander.

In duly turning over the specific effects or their proceeds to the administrator or executor, the military agent is discharged of his responsibility.³ He will properly of course take formal receipts in full for the articles or moneys delivered.⁴

administrator nor assimilated to one, and he could not in general therefore make such expenditures except at his own risk.

1. Pars. 120, 229.

2. As to the effect of testacy—see *post*.

3. DIGEST, 100.

4. See par. 231, Army Regs.

The Effect of Testacy. It may be observed in conclusion that the mere fact that the deceased officer or soldier has left a *will*, is not, (as has already been indicated,) to be regarded as dispensing with the proceedings prescribed by the Articles. Even if the will be only a *nuncupative* one,¹ a legal representative must in general be appointed and qualified before the estate can be disposed of or distributed. If indeed the deceased has bequeathed his property, (being of material value,) to a comrade or friends in the same command, and such command is so situated that the legatee or some other person present may, with but slight delay, obtain from proper authority the right to administer, it may perhaps be superfluous to resort to the precautions pointed out in the Articles. But even in such a case it will be rare that the

1. A "nuncupative" will, (from the Latin *nuncupare*, to name or pronounce orally, or without writing,) is an oral declaration of a bequest of his personal property, made *in extremis*, in the presence of witnesses or a witness, by an officer or soldier in actual military service, or by a mariner at sea. [In some States it is specially authorized to be made by other persons on occasions of mortal illness.] Nuncupative wills, which are said to have been first permitted by Julius Cæsar to his Roman soldiers, were, at an early period, adopted from the civil by the common law, and have been generally recognized and sanctioned by modern statute. The term—"in actual military service," commonly employed in the statutes on the subject, has been construed to mean on some duty associated with positive danger, as at a battle, or during a hostile movement or expedition in time of war. The fact appearing that the declaration was made upon an occasion of this character, and also that the party, being conscious and in sound mind, made it as his will, or with the *animus testandi*, and in expectation of death,—the formalities usually required for the authentication of written wills are dispensed with in the proof of the nuncupative will. The same is therefore established simply by the testimony of the person or persons present who heard the words of direction and can faithfully repeat them or their substance. There need have been but a single witness, and he need not have been specially requested to act as such by the testator. But, as it is observed by Blackstone, the act of nuncupation "must not be proved at too long a distance from the testator's death, lest the words should escape the memory of the witnesses." For particulars of the history and law of nuncupative wills, see Redfield on the Law of Wills, c. VI, s. II.; 1 Jarman on Wills, 130-1; 2 Black. Com., 500-1; Swinburne on Wills, part I § XIV. Prendergast, 227-231; Clode, 1 M. F., 212; Hubbard v. Hubbard, 4 Seld. 196; *Ex parte* Thompson, 4 Bradf. 154; Prince v. Hazelton, 20 Johns. 501; Dockum v. Robinson, 6 Fost. 372; Gould v. Safford's Estate, 39 Vt. 498. It may be added that the policy of the law which sustains nuncupative wills will also often sustain *written* wills, executed by officers or soldiers and seamen under the circumstances above indicated, but without the formalities prescribed by statute—as, for example, wills not attested by the requisite number of witnesses. [See the above authorities.]

local law will allow so speedy an issue of letters testamentary as to do away with the necessity of securing the effects in the manner indicated by the military code.

XXXI. THE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-EIGHTH ARTICLE.

[READING AND OBSERVANCE OF THE ARTICLES OF WAR.]

“ART. 128. *The foregoing articles shall be read and published, once in every six months, to every garrison, regiment, troop, or company in the service of the United States, and shall be duly observed and obeyed by all officers and soldiers in said service.*”

Previous Forms. Art. 101 of 1806 was substantially identical with the present form of this provision. A previous Article—No. 1 of Sec. XVIII of 1776—was to a similar effect, except that the reading was required to be done “once in every two months.” A like requirement was contained in the corresponding British Article of 1765. It was required in the Code of Gustavus Adolphus that the articles “be read every month publicly before every regiment, to the end that no man shall pretend ignorance.”

Effect. This Article, which is a complement of the provision of Art. 2, requiring that the Articles “shall be read to every enlisted man at the time of, or within six days after, his enlistment,” enjoins a further reading at fixed intervals as a regular ceremonial of the service. It is clear that where the reading is not thus reiterated, the ordinary soldier can hardly be expected to remain familiar with all the requirements of the code.¹ In some instances during the late war, where the reading had been neglected in a command, it was ordered that the Articles, or at least the principal ones, be read oftener than here prescribed, viz. once a week,² or—in one case³—twice a week. Sentences

1. G. O. 20, Dept. of the Mo., 1861.

2. G. O. 12, Army of the Potomac, 1861. Do. 41, Dept. of the Ohio, 1866.

3. G. O. 26, Dept. of the South, 1864. In this Order it was added—
“one reading to be on Sunday, and, where practicable, by the chaplain.”

of soldiers tried by court-martial have not unfrequently been mitigated for the reason that the accused had not been sufficiently made acquainted with the Articles;¹ and the failure properly to read them on the part of commanders has been denounced as a military offence.² Certainly if the *reading* is not performed according to the first part of the Article, the *observance* of and *obedience* to the code required by the concluding clause can scarcely be fully ensured.

It may be added that where there are men in a command who are but imperfectly acquainted with the English language, a complete compliance with the injunction of this Article will require that the Articles be not only read to them but, where necessary, specifically explained.

XXXII. CONCLUDING PROVISION—SEC. 1343, REV. STS.

[TRIAL AND PUNISHMENT OF SPIES.]

"SEC. 1343. *All persons who, in time of war, or of rebellion against the supreme authority of the United States, shall be found lurking or acting as spies, in or about any of the fortifications, posts, quarters, or encampments of any of the armies of the United States, or elsewhere, shall be triable by a general court-martial, or by a military commission, and shall, on conviction thereof, suffer death.*"

Earlier Forms. Our military codes prior to that of 1806 contained no provision for the punishment of spies, nor was any contained in the British code from which our earliest Articles were derived. The first legislation in this country on the subject was the Resolution of the Continental Congress, of Aug. 21, 1776, as follows:—"Resolved, That all persons, not members of, nor owing allegiance to, any of the United States of America, * * * who shall be found lurking as spies in or about the fortifications or encampments of the armies of the United States, or of any of them, shall suffer death, according to the law and usage of nations, by

1. G. O. 31, Dept. of the East, 1868; G. C. M. O. 73, Id., 1872; Do. 25, Dept. of Texas, 1874. And see G. O. 23, Army of Occupation, W. Va., 1861; Do. 49, Dept. of the Susquehanna, 1864.

2. G. O. 14, Dept. of the Ohio, 1865.

*sentence of a court-martial, or such other punishment as such court-martial shall direct."*¹ This was the law in force during the Revolutionary war, and at the time of the trials of Major Andre, Lieut. Palmer and others.

The next specific enactment,² that of 1800, formed the concluding provision of the code of Articles of war of April next of that year, being in fact sec. 2 of the same Act of Congress. It provided:—"That in time of war all persons not citizens of or owing allegiance to the United States of America, who shall be found lurking as spies in or about the fortifications or encampments of the armies of the United States, or of any of them, shall suffer death according to the law and usage of nations, by sentence of a general court-martial."

This statute, except in so far as to confine the trial of spies to general courts and to make the death penalty obligatory in all cases of conviction, did not materially modify the original form. Citizens—as noticed in the case of *Smith v. Shaw* in 1841³—remained still unamenable for the crime of the spy.

The law continued without change till the period of the late rebellion, when the Article of 1800, being inadequate to the conditions of the exigency, was amended by the Act of Feb. 14, 1862, c. 25, s. 4, so as to read as follows:—"That in time of war or rebellion against the supreme authority of the United States all persons who shall be found lurking as spies or acting as such in or about the fortifications, encampments, posts, quarters, or head-quarters of the armies of the United States or any of them within any part of the United States which has been or may be declared to be in a state of insurrection by proclamation of the President of the United States shall suffer death by sentence of a general court-martial."

By this provision the jurisdiction for the trial of the spy offence was extended for the first time to a category of the United

1. 2 Jour. Cong. 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

2. Meanwhile a provision in the Act of 1800, which had been inserted in the original bill, was omitted. It was "inhabitant of these United States, who shall be found lurking as spies or acting as such in or about the fortifications, encampments, posts, quarters, or head-quarters of the armies of the United States or any of them within any part of the United States which has been or may be declared to be in a state of insurrection by proclamation of the President of the United States shall suffer death by sentence of a general court-martial."

3. 2 Jour. Cong. 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

States; the general term "all persons" being now evidently left unqualified for the purpose mainly of embracing the class which would naturally furnish the greatest number of offenders, *viz.* officers and soldiers of the confederate army and civilians in sympathy therewith.

The jurisdiction indeed was confined to offences committed in parts of the United States declared to be in insurrection.¹ This restriction, however, was soon done away with, and the jurisdiction made general—*i. e.* applicable to offences committed anywhere in the United States, or in another country during a foreign war—by the Act of March 3, 1863, c. 75, s. 38. This enactment, (which made the crime cognizable also by military commission,) was expressed in the form and terms retained in the existing law—Sec. 1343, Rev. Sts., above cited. While the provision of 1863 did not expressly refer to that of 1862, as amended or repealed, it clearly entirely superseded it.

Definition of Spy—Nature and Proof of the Offence. A spy is a person who, without authority and secretly, collects material information within the lines of one of the hostile armies, with the design of imparting it to the other.² The information is commonly such as relates to the numbers or resources of the enemy, the state of his defences, the positions of his forces, their proposed movements or operations, and the like. The *clandestine* character of his proceedings and the deception thus practised constitute the gist or rather aggravation of the offence of the spy.³ The statute refers to him as "lurking;" and Halleck describes him as "*insinuating himself among the enemy.*" The concealment is in general contrived by his disguising himself by a change of dress,⁴ by coloring the hair,⁵ removing the beard or

1. See case, in G. O. 39, Dept. of the Mo., 1863, of an alleged spy, whose offence was committed in Missouri prior to the date of the statute next to be mentioned, and in which it was properly held that the court-martial ordered for the trial had no jurisdiction of the offender.

2. Halleck, Int. Law., 460; Lieber, Instructions, G. O. 100 of 1863, § 88; Manual of Mil. Law, 270; G. O. 13, Dept. of the Mo., 1861; Do. 30, Id., 1863; Do. 23, Dept. of Kans., 1864. The information must be intended for the enemy, not for the personal uses of the party himself.

3. Authorities cited in last note; also DIGEST, 455; G. O. 174 of 1862; Do. 74, Dept. of the Ohio, 1863.

4. In a case in G. O. 92, Dept. of the Ohio, 1864, a female spy, when arrested, was disguised as a man.

5. See case in DIGEST, 456.

rearing a false one, assuming a false name,¹ &c. ; as also by false representations, by personating another individual, or by any other false pretence or form of fraud. During the recent war the majority of the persons tried and convicted as spies were officers or soldiers of the enemy's army, who, in penetrating our lines, had abandoned their proper uniform for the dress of a civilian;² and it was held that such an officer or soldier, discovered thus disguised, was in general to be treated, not as a prisoner of war, but as being *prima facie* a spy.³ This presumption, however, might—it was ruled⁴—be rebutted by evidence that the party had come within the lines for a comparatively innocent purpose—as to visit his family; or, having been detained within the lines by being separated from his regiment, &c., on a retreat, had changed his dress merely to facilitate a return to the other side.⁵ In such a case indeed the clearest proof would properly be required before accepting the defence.

But to be charged with the offence of the spy, it is not essential that the accused be a member of the army or resident of the country of the enemy: he may be a citizen or even a soldier of the nation or people against whom he offends, and, at the time of his offence, legally within their lines.⁶

Beside the coming within the hostile lines without authority, being in disguise, making false representations, &c., a most significant circumstance going to fix upon the suspected person the *animus* of the spy is the destruction or attempted destruction by him, upon being detected, of letters, dispatches, or other writings

1. See cases in G. C. M. O. 215 of 1864; G. O. 24, Dept. of the East, 1865, (case of Kennedy;) Do. 92, Dept. of the Ohio, 1864; DIGEST, 456; so André's case, Printed Trial, Philad., 1780; 2 Chandler Crim. Trials, 57.

2. See cases in G. O. 267, 269, of 1863; Do. 5, 41, of 1864; G. C. M. O. 93, 152, 248, of 1864; G. O. 57, Middle Dept., 1863; Do. 3, Dept. of the Ohio, 1864; Do. 14, Dept. of the East, 1865, (case of Beall;) DIGEST, 455. So, Major André was disguised in a suit of clothes belonging to Joshua Hett Smith. 2 Chandler, C. T., 185.

3. See Lieber § 83; DIGEST, 455; G. O. 30, Dept. of the Mo., 1863; Do. 21, Middle Dept., 1863; Do. 23, Dept., of Va. & No. Ca., 1863; Do. 74, Dept. of the Ohio, 1863; Do. 10, Dept. of the Tenn., 1863; Do. 3, Dept. of Kans., 1864.

4. DIGEST, 455, 456. And see G. C. M. O. 110 of 1864.

5. See case in G. O. 59, Dept. of the Susquehanna, 1864.

6. See case in G. O. 26, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1864, of a soldier of the federal army convicted as a spy.

in his possession, containing information for the enemy.¹ Another suspicious circumstance is an attempt to *bribe* the arresting party to allow him to proceed.²

But to prove him to be a spy, it is not necessary that the accused should be shown to have communicated, or even to have obtained, the desired information, or any information whatever.³ The fact that he was "lurking" or "acting" *with intent* to obtain material information, to be communicated by himself or another to the enemy, is all that is required to complete the offence.⁴

Further, it is not necessary that the spy should be within the lines without authority.⁵ One who, being legally admitted under a *flag of truce*, abuses his privilege, by secretly collecting facts for the use of the enemy, renders himself liable to the punishment of the spy.⁶ Such was the situation in the case of André, who, moreover, held a *passport* from Arnold. But this could not protect him from being treated as a spy, since, having been given by one who was in criminal complicity with him, it was null and void as a *safe-conduct*.⁷

It need scarcely be added that the mere observing of the enemy, with a view to gain intelligence of his movements, does not constitute the offence in question, for this may be done, and in active service is constantly done, as a legitimate act of war. As remarked in the Manual—"An officer in uniform, however nearly he approaches to the enemy, or however closely he observes his motions, is not a spy, and if taken must be treated as a prisoner of war."⁸ Observing the enemy from a *balloon* is no more criminal than any other form of reconnoissance.

1. Case in DIGEST, 456.

2. This was a feature in the case of André.

3. Lieber § 88.

4. See the definitions above cited; also case in G. O. 92, Dept. of the Ohio, 1864.

5. See G. O. 346 of 1863.

6. Lieber § 114.

7. See Halleck, 408. A false passport given for the purpose of concealing the identity of the party was a feature in the case of Kennedy. G. O. 24, Dept. of the East, 1865.

8. Page 270. So Halleck, (p. 406,)—"The term *spy* is frequently applied to persons sent to reconnoitre an enemy's position, his forces, defences, &c., but not in disguise or under false pretences. Such, however, are not *spies* in the sense in which that term is used in military and international law."

The nature of the crime of the spy may be further illustrated indicating certain classes who, though guilty of a violation the laws of war, are not chargeable as spies. Thus one who crosses the lines without authority as a mere *letter carrier* is not a spy;¹ nor is one who merely violates the rule of non-intercourse by trading with the enemy, or who simply gives intelligence to the enemy in violation of Art. 46. And so one who comes secretly within the lines with a view to the destruction of property, killing of persons, robbery, and the like, is not *as such* a spy.² Further, a person who passes through the lines as a *bearer of dispatches* from one post or force of the enemy to another,³ is *as such* to be treated as a spy but to be held as a prisoner of war.⁴

Jurisdiction. Under the law of nations and of war, the offence of the spy is an exclusively military one, cognizable only by military tribunals.⁵ In our law, as we have seen, an express statute has, since August, 1776, made this crime triable by court-martial, and since March, 1863, jurisdiction of the same has been given also to the military commission, a species of tribunal to be considered in PART II of this treatise.

1. See cases in G. O. 39 of 1864, of persons erroneously charged as spies, who were simply arrested in our lines with letters from persons in Virginia, &c., to persons in Baltimore and elsewhere. Persons arrested for carrying letters to enemies, however, would not be liable to be charged as spies, if they were letter-carriers merely.

2. In the leading cases of Beall and Kennedy, though the accused were charged and convicted, *inter alia*, as spies, their offences were rather or only those of "prowlers," (Lieber § 84,) or guerillas; the crimes of all consisting mostly in seizing and destroying steamers and their cargoes on Lake Erie, and attempting to throw passenger trains off the track in the State of New York, in September and December, 1864; and the principal crime of Kennedy being his taking part in the attempt to burn the City of New York by setting fire to Barnum's Museum and ten hotels the night of Nov. 25th, 1864. (G. O. 14, 24, Dept. of the East, 1865; *United Trials*, New York, 1865.)

3. See Lieber § 99. It was held in the late war that carrying communications between the confederate government in Richmond and its agents in Canada, did not entitle the party to be treated as a legitimate bearer of dispatches. DIGEST, 456.

4. See cases of persons charged as spies, but held not shown to be such and therefore entitled to be treated as prisoners of war—in G. O. 1 of 1862; Do. 228, 243, 346, of 1863; Do. 7, Army of the Potomac, 1864. Spies, of course, are not exchanged as prisoners of war. Lieber § 103.

5. *Smith v. Shaw*, 12 Johns. 257; In the matter of Marvin, 45 Barb. 1; do., 31 How. Pr. 228.

It has always been legal, however, and would still be so in time of war notwithstanding the statute, to proceed *summarily without trial* against spies; and in some of our earlier cases—that of André, for example¹—the investigation was had, not by a court-martial, but by a court of inquiry or board ordered for the purpose, upon whose report, if to the effect that the accused was found to be a spy, the death penalty was presently executed.²

Special principles. A military court, in passing upon a case of an alleged spy, is to be governed by the rules and principles established by the usages of war as recognized in the law of nations. Beside the rules of evidence already indicated, there remain to be noticed two jurisdictional principles peculiarly applicable to cases of spies, to wit:—

1. A spy, to be triable and punishable as such, must be taken *in flagrante delicto*, or rather before he succeeds in getting through the lines and returning to the territory or army of his own nation or people. If he thus makes good his return without being arrested, the jurisdiction for his offence does not attach but lapses, and if, subsequently to such return, he is taken prisoner in battle or otherwise captured, he is not liable to trial or punishment for the original offence.³

2. Further, a spy, to be punished as such, must be brought to trial, (or at least must be duly arrested with a view to trial,⁴) during the existence, *i. e.* before the end of, the war.⁵ Thus, in Martin's case, above cited, it was held that as the alleged offender had not been arrested as a spy till after the surrender of the confederate armies and the termination of hostilities,⁶ he was not

1. So, in the case of Thomas Shanks, G. O. Army Headquarters, June 3, 1878.

2. As to André's case, see Chapter XXIV—"COURTS OF INQUIRY."

3. Lieber § 104; In the matter of Martin, *ante*; DIGEST, 456; G. O. 24, Dept. of the East, 1865. (Kennedy's case.) In the last case the point is properly taken that for an alleged confederate spy to have escaped, without arrest, into Canada, (where there were agents of his government,) was not such a *return* as to have discharged him from liability to trial and punishment for his offence.

4. As to the principle of the attaching of jurisdiction upon an arrest with a view and for the purpose of trial—see Chapter VIII; DIGEST, 210.

5. In the matter of Martin, *ante*; Wells, Jur. of Courts, 577.

6. This was the view of the court at the time. As a matter of fact, the war, at the date of Martin's arrest, (December, 1865,) had not yet

subject to trial by a military tribunal; and he was accordingly discharged on *habeas corpus* from the custody of the military authorities. But, as will be noticed in a subsequent part of this treatise,¹ this second principle is not peculiar to the case of the spy alone, but applies to all cases of persons offending in time of war against the laws of war.

Punishment. By the law of nations the crime of the spy is punishable with death,² and by our statute this penalty is made mandatory upon conviction. Such penalty may be executed either by shooting or hanging. The sentence 'to be shot' was in a few instances imposed during the late war;³ but, in the great majority of cases, the form of death by hanging, as the more ignominious and severe,⁴ was adjudged. In some instances, women, (who, by reason of the natural subtlety of their sex, were especially qualified for the rôle of the spy,) were sentenced to be hung as spies, though in their case this punishment was rarely if ever enforced.⁵ In a considerable proportion of the other cases the capital punishment adjudged was executed, and commonly on the next day or within a brief period after the approval of the proceedings.⁶

It may be observed, however, that the extreme penalty is not attached to the crime of the spy, because of the intrinsic unlaw-

ended—according to the subsequent rulings of the Supreme Court, heretofore cited.

1. PART II—"Jurisdiction of Military Commissions."

2. Vattel, book III, p. 179; Manual, 270; Halleck, 406, 407; Lieber § 88; Smith *v. Shaw*, *ante*; In the matter of Martin, *ante*; G. O. 13, Dept. of the Mo., 1861; Do. 23, Dept. of Kans., 1864.

3. G. O. 174 of 1862; Do. 346 of 1863; Do. 39, Dept. of the Mo., 1863; Do. 4, Dept. of Ky., 1865.

4. See Halleck, 407; G. O. 107, Dept. of the Mo., 1863.

See cases in G. O. 208, Dept. of the Mo., 1864; Do. 92, Dept. of Ohio, 1864, in which the death sentence was "disapproved." Other cases of females tried as spies are contained in G. O. 43, 93, 121, Middle Dept., 1864; Do. 102, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1864; Do. 14, Dept. of the Mo., 1865.

6. As in the case of André and that of Palmer, (see *post.*) And compare case in G. O. 8, Mid. Mil. Dept., 1865; also case in Do. 92, Dept. of the East, 1864, where it is announced by Gen. Dix that a certain class of alleged spies will, upon conviction, "be executed without the delay of a single day." In a case in G. O. 58, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1864, it was ordered that the sentence of hanging be executed as near as practicable to the place of the arrest, 'for the purpose of the example.'

fulness or the depravity of his act. The employment of spies is indeed sanctioned by the usages of civilized warfare;¹ and the spy himself may often be an heroic character. A military or other person cannot be required, by an order, to assume the office of spy; he must volunteer for the purpose;² and where so volunteering, not on account of special rewards offered or expected, but from a courageous spirit and a patriotic motive, he generously exposes himself to imminent danger for the public good and is worthy of high honor.³ Where indeed a member of the army or citizen of the country assumes to act as a spy against his own government in the interest of the enemy, he is chargeable with perfidy and treachery, and fully merits the punishment of hanging;⁴ but—generally speaking—the death penalty is awarded this crime simply because of the grave harm which it may effect and the peril to which it exposes an army. The spy, proceeding secretly and swiftly, is capable of involving a command in a casualty as serious as it is sudden and unexpected, if he be not forthwith apprehended and summarily disposed of; and, by the law of nations and our own statute, he is condemned to death, “since,” as Vattel observes,⁵ “we have scarcely any other means of guarding against the mischief he may do us.”

1. Vattel, book III, p. 179; Halleck, 406.

2. Halleck, 406, 409; Manual, 270.

3. Note the circumstances of the case of Capt. Nathan Hale. Halleck, 407.

4. In the case, in G. O. 26, Dept. of Va. & No. Ca., 1864, of a U. S. soldier convicted as a spy, the accused was sentenced to be hung, and the sentence was approved and executed. Lieut. Palmer, whose sentence was so summarily executed by Gen. Putnam in 1777, was an American who had taken a commission in the service of the enemy.

5. Book III, p. 179.

AMENDMENTS OF THE CODE.

While no general revision of our Code of Articles is necessary, or, it is believed, desirable, yet, as indicated in the course of this Chapter, the same would, in the opinion of the author, be materially simplified and improved by a few amendments, such as the following:—

1. By repealing or dropping as obsolete, or covered by other and better provisions, Arts. 1, 25, 40, 52, 53, 54, 94 and 100.

2. By consolidating Arts. 5 and 14, and by omitting from Arts. 6 and 14 so much as prescribes the penalty of disability to hold office, &c.

3. By striking out in Art. 17 all after the word “accouterments,” and substituting—*shall be punished as a court-martial may direct*.

4. By extending and rendering more available the means of redress provided in Arts. 29 and 30, especially the latter.

5. By so modifying Art. 45 as to make it read—“Whosoever relieves the enemy with arms, ammunition, supplies, money, *or other thing*,” &c.

6. By omitting from Art. 60 the last clause, making officers and soldiers amenable to military trial after they have become civilians.

7. By placing Art. 62 after the present Art 69, *i. e.* after all the other Articles which provide for the punishment of designated offences, and re-numbering accordingly.

8. By adding to Art. 74 the words—“who shall prosecute in the name of the United States,” as also a provision to the effect that the judge advocate shall not accompany the court when it deliberates upon its finding or sentence, and dropping Art. 90 altogether.

9. By amending Art. 86, so as to enlarge the power of courts-martial to punish for contempt, especially in cases of witnesses refusing to testify.

10. By extending the period of the limitation of Art. 103, *as to cases of desertion*.

11. By striking out, in Arts. 104 and 110, the words “whole proceedings” and inserting the word *same*, (referring to the sentence.)

12. By so modifying Art. 113 that it shall conform to the actual practice as indicated by pars. 918 and 919, Army Regulations.







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